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Wednesday 18 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 18 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 18 November 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

LEGAL AID

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): People in Ontario who are disadvantaged thought they had a friend in Bob Rae. Now they know that Bob Rae, a captive of organized and powerful special interest groups, does little for the truly disadvantaged.

Another example is the removal of access to justice for the disadvantaged at Ontario's legal aid clinics. Clinic directors recently issued a release stating, "This government does not value the work of legal clinics and does not value the plight of the poor." Clinics are being forced daily to turn away clients, including injured workers with compensation claims.

Bob Rae is Robin Hood is reverse. He takes from the have-nots and gives to the haves. For example, the Attorney General, while starving the clinics, is giving raises of over 5% to the ministry's head office lawyers and 10.5% increases to retained Bay Street lawyers. While clinic directors are facing meltdown in their clinics, the ministry has just hired five new managers to work in its communications branch. We get spin doctors instead of substance.

Surprisingly, the Rae government, in its quarterly financial report, boasts that "significant savings were realized from the legal aid plan." Why are these savings being used to hire spin doctors and provide 10.5% to Bay Street lawyers while clinics serving the disadvantaged go into meltdown?

LAND USE PLANNING

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of the Environment. It concerns her so-called reasonable land use policy.

Minister, in your recent letter to your colleague the member for Simcoe Centre, you said, "Planning the location of a school to allow connection to a municipal sewage system would, in many instances, involve moving the school under five kilometres, which may add five minutes to the school bus routes."

This is a ludicrous statement. Your tradeoff between increased bus travel time and your reasonable land use policy will kill the traditional rural school in Ontario. Your policy effectively prevents school boards from expanding existing schools or building new facilities if they do not have sites of approximately 150 acres.

The county of Simcoe is essentially a rural municipality, and our rural schools play an important role in the formulation of a sense of community and the preservation of a traditional rural culture. Minister, for you even to suggest that rural schools will eventually be eliminated and that children should be bused to urban centres, only to take their lessons in a growing number of portable classrooms,

shows a disturbing degree of insensitivity on the part of your government to the needs of our rural communities in Ontario.

I would urge you to work closely with the Simcoe County Board of Education to develop innovative waste disposal programs rather than focusing exclusively on killing off our rural schools. Minister, passing the buck to your local Ministry of the Environment office for its non-action is not satisfactory.

JOBS ONTARIO

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): Today I would like to share with my colleagues the success of Jobs Ontario in my riding, Sault Ste Marie.

Since August 17, we have seen 20 permanent full-time placements. Some of the positions filled are with small businesses where fewer than five employees exist and where duties range from purchasing and computer work to developing new techniques. In all these areas where jobs are being created, training is new. It is the type of training you couldn't receive at school or from a previous position, therefore allowing everyone the opportunity to be eligible.

Some 600 to 800 positions will be filled during the length of these three-year Jobs Ontario initiatives in the Sault. Our Jobs Ontario broker, the Sault Community and Career Information Centre, has been a great help. They have told me that the response to this government project has been tremendous, and both the ad and word-of-mouth campaigns have helped significantly in making these Jobs Ontario initiatives work.

I see the Jobs Ontario project as a benefit for people to access information about the job market: an added tool to job search. The participants are out there self-marketing, trying to get employers interested in the program. In terms of effectiveness, everyone concerned—participants and employers—is enthusiastic.

Most importantly, Jobs Ontario in Sault Ste Marie and area has helped to develop a good community partner relationship. The participants, the employees, the trainers and our broker, the Sault Community and Career Information Centre, have been remarkable in handling this important initiative.

BLOOD TESTING

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): The New Democratic Party government has ignored the needs of a group of people who are ill and who are dying as a result of a delay in the implementation of an appropriate blood screening program in Ontario in the early 1980s.

Three hundred and seventy-five people are known to have been infected with the HIV virus through blood transfusions, and 60 of those people have died.

Months ago, Hemophilia Ontario asked that the province participate alongside the federal government in a compensation plan that would ensure that those who contracted HIV through tainted blood transfusions have security for

themselves and for their families. The government has refused to act or even to provide the courtesy of interviews. Now people are left in the position of having to sue for damages, at enormous personal cost and emotional strain.

Yesterday people who have been infected by HIV through blood transfusions called on the government again, this time to establish a public inquiry to determine why adequate testing and public safety measures were not put into place for months, and sometimes years, after the risks were known. Many people who contracted HIV still don't know that they are HIV-positive and may pass it on to others, including their own spouses and children. There are 41 people in the HIV-T group in Ontario, and only five of them had been notified in any way of the possibility of having been infected.

The government must act. There must be a compensation plan, and there must be a public inquiry. That is the right and just thing to do.

1340

DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'm pleased to rise in the House to inform all members of the presence of an exhibit put on by the Dufferin County Museum in the Legislature's west wing.

The Dufferin County Museum was established in 1963. It is dedicated to preserving the social history of the county, the activities and lives of all of its residents. Most of its display items are everyday objects the people of the time would never expect to see in a museum: a pair of children's mittens, a blacksmith's ledger, a quilt embroidered with the names of its various creators. The stories these objects tell of are of working and raising children and everyday life.

Like all museums, the Dufferin County Museum is open to the public. What distinguishes it from many of the others is its approach to history. Fuelling that different approach is the museum's curator, Wayne Townsend, and a group of dedicated volunteers. His energy and commitment to the museum makes it a popular place with visitors from inside the county and out.

The museum's extensive archives are used to research family, property or community history. Perhaps its most important aim is to pass on an appreciation of our heritage.

The museum is presently housed in the tiny old registry office in Orangeville. There are plans to move it to a more spacious location. The museum is eagerly awaiting a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications to enable it to continue its good work.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): I rise today to bring forward an issue of great importance to my constituents in the town of Pickering. This issue is one that I have become familiar with, this being the issue of garbage.

I had occasion to attend a public meeting in my riding a few weeks ago. This meeting was sponsored by the Tory caucus to promote the concept of shipping garbage throughout the province.

This concept terrifies my constituents. They know well what it is like to have to suffer with someone else's garbage. The people of the town of Pickering have had to deal with Metro's garbage and incompetence for decades. The past Liberal government had decided that Pickering was to continue to take Metro's garbage, only this time without a full environmental assessment.

When I ran for office, the people of Pickering told me that they did not believe in the concept of export of garbage. They know they cannot in all conscience say that they don't want to be host to some other community's garbage and then say it's all right to force a less fortunate municipality to take theirs. That would be immoral.

That is why the Tory members who came to my community were disappointed. They fully expected to create a fury in Pickering and have the full support of the community. They didn't have it. They don't have it. As a matter of fact, the only support they had was from people who came to this meeting from outside my riding, people who don't have the many years of experience with garbage that the people of the town of Pickering do.

So I would like to thank the Tory members for an enjoyable evening. Perhaps I could offer one piece of advice: Know the history of an area before you come in and make all sorts of outrageous statements. Their definition of "willing host" is one that is not acceptable to my constituents.

TAXATION

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): I want to bring to the public's attention the indirect taxation which the NDP government is inflicting on this province. Rather than come clean with the people of Ontario through legislated tax measures, the Rae government raises revenues in an underhanded and devious fashion by raising fees, fines and any other levy imaginable.

Over the last few months, I have received complaints on at least five substantive fee increases or new provincial levies. There is the new camping fee for seniors. Tough new tax collection measures have been put in place on the sale of used cars. This measure is especially hard on some of the most vulnerable members of our society. There is the \$50 fee for simply updating one's business registration. There are the substantially increased traffic fines. The managed forest tax rebate program has been cancelled or seriously delayed, and the Ministry of the Environment now charges a 2% review fee for all certificates of approval for sewage and waterworks.

Because each individual tax measure affects only a limited group of people, this revenue grab has largely gone unnoticed. Collectively, though, this indirect taxation is making a significant dent in people's pocketbooks.

If the Treasurer needs the money, let him have the courage and honesty to raise taxes up front rather than by the back door and without public scrutiny by this Legislature.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Now that the provincial Legislature has resumed sitting after constituency week, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss

the recently concluded Holocaust Education Week. I don't think the importance of Holocaust Education Week to both the Jewish community and to the people of Ontario could be overstated.

In the 1930s and 1940s over six million Jews were systematically annihilated by the Nazis in virtually every town, village and city in eastern Europe.

The best means of ensuring that the atrocities of the Holocaust are not repeated is through education. Through education, hopefully, we can learn that racism is unacceptable and intolerable in any form.

In the past few weeks there has been an increase in neo-Nazi demonstrations in Germany. Right here in Canada a so-called historian was deported because he denies the authenticity of the Holocaust. Earlier this year, in the Toronto area, three synagogues were desecrated with racist, anti-Jewish slogans.

While it is discouraging to hear of events such as these in the 1990s, these events serve to reinforce the importance of Holocaust Education Week. So long as there are people who deny the facts of the Holocaust or threaten the rights of any race, we must redouble our efforts to educate the public about the importance of history and of the basic reality of human rights.

The generation of Holocaust survivors is coming to an end. It is important that we, the next generation, remember and deepen our understanding of this dark period in history. The goal of Holocaust Education Week is awareness. Our generation must ensure that the tragedies of the past are never forgotten. We must never forget.

VIMY BAND

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): I rise to bring to the attention of the House an issue that will have serious consequences for my riding. This is the proposal by the Department of National Defence to move the renowned Vimy Band from CFB Kingston to CFB Borden.

Information generously supplied by Sergeant K.W. Brown of the Communications and Electronics Museum of CFB Kingston says that the band of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals was organized at the Vimy barracks in Kingston in 1952. In its early years it saw tours of duty in Korea, Japan and Germany. In 1968 it became the Canadian Forces Vimy Band.

Over its 40-year history, all of it while based in Kingston, the Vimy Band has become a much-loved institution. It has frequently entertained area residents and tourists and, on occasion, lent its unique sound to raising money for worthy causes. The band has enriched Kingston's Remembrance Day ceremonies through producing marvelous music in the face of bitter November weather blowing in off Lake Ontario.

As you can see, the Vimy Band is very much a part of our community. The members strengthen music-making in Kingston, both through their own performances and through association with the Kingston Symphony and the Queen's University school of music.

On behalf of my constituents, I urge the Department of National Defence to make the sensible decision here. Have the seven instructors in need of a band at CBF Borden

move to Kingston to join Canada's finest military band, the Vimy Band. Don't uproot the band, disrupting the lives of its members and their families and causing a deep sense of loss in our community. Move the instructors to Kingston where they can join the Vimy Band in building on its outstanding achievement of the last 40 years.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Point of order, the member for Norfolk.

SPEAKER'S BIRTHDAY

Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk): Mr Speaker, it has come to my attention today that I have some concern over the Speaker himself, this being the Speaker's 12th anniversary of his 39th birthday. I thought that I'd bring to the attention of this House that this is an occasion that would bring forward best wishes on the part of every member in this House. I thought I'd bring that to your attention today, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I don't think the member has a point of order. If it is anything, it is reminding the Speaker of something about which he does not wish to be reminded of. But I thank you for the kind remarks.

It is time for oral questions. The member for Bruce.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): This maybe is one of those days you can have your cake and eat it too, Mr Speaker.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In announcing the transfer payments to municipalities last January, the Minister of Municipal Affairs wrote a personal letter to everybody in the municipalities and told them: "In 1993 and 1994, the unconditional grants will increase by 2% each year. We have chosen to make this multi-year announcement to help municipalities plan their financial futures."

Given this personal commitment by the minister and given the fact that he has promised that municipalities will be able to plan over the various years, how does the minister think the municipalities are going to stand for the broken promise by both him and the Treasurer of this province?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I didn't hear anything yesterday from the Treasurer that indicated that the promise was going to be broken. I heard from the Treasurer that in view of the fact that inflation in Metropolitan Toronto is about 0.5% and inflation in the rest of the province is about 1.2% and that in view of the fact that the recession continues to be very tough on revenues for this province, we have an obligation to control our costs. The only way we can control our costs is to look at all our expenditures. So this expenditure, like every other one, is up for review. I think that's appropriate and what you'd expect from a responsible government.

1350

Mr Elston: I can't begin to tell you how disappointed I am when a minister of the crown stands here and says, "I

promised this last winter but I'm reviewing all of my promises," just as Bob Rae did after the election of 1990.

The municipalities of this province understand how important the unconditional grants to them are. They've already entered multi-year cost-sharing programs with the province. They've already entered into contracts with various organizations in their municipalities. How does the Minister of Municipal Affairs expect them to live up to the commitments that they made on the basis of the 2% promises? How do they expect to live up to those commitments other than by raising local taxes?

Hon Mr Cooke: Last week the Treasurer and myself met with all of the regional chairs, and I think the regional chairs indicated very clearly to us that nobody should overstate the importance of unconditional grants in terms of the overall grant structure for the municipalities. Unconditional grants represent about 20% of the revenues that municipalities have. It's a very small portion of their revenues, and I don't think it would be fair or accurate to say that if unconditional grants went up 1% or 0% instead of 2%, that's going to have any impact at all on local mill rates.

Mr Elston: I think the honourable minister should file for this Legislative Assembly the impact of each of those scenarios on the municipalities and do it forthwith, because last year, when he was talking to these municipalities about their three-year planning scenario, he talked to them in the terms that, "Everyone's help and creativity to work out fairest ways to maintain services, streamline operations and preserve jobs" is needed.

After having had the councillors and staffs of municipalities around this province endeavouring to carry out that work, in fact receiving kudos from the minister and the Treasurer on various occasions for having done that and having reached this stage where the second year of your commitment is required, how do you explain your withdrawal from the commitments you made to those people if they showed creativity and ways of preserving jobs and services in their municipalities?

Hon Mr Cooke: What we will continue to do with the municipal sector, as well as all of the other sectors in the social service, health care and education fields, is to meet and work with our partners to make sure that our expenditures are under control and that we provide and maintain good public services from one end of this province to the other. But I find it strange that today the Liberal Party is saying: "Don't review your expenditures even though your revenues have dropped by a few hundred million dollars. Let the deficit rip. It doesn't matter." We know that next week they'll be saying the direct opposite.

I think the House leader for the official opposition should not overreact. The Treasurer hasn't made an announcement. All he has indicated is that this matter is under review. When the Treasurer and the government have come to a final decision, then that decision will be communicated to the House.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): In the absence of the Minister of Health, I will address my question to the Treasurer. Last January the Treasurer told hospitals that their transfer payments would be 2% for the upcoming

fiscal year and that their planning could be totally based on that. Yesterday the Treasurer indicated that he could no longer guarantee that the figure will be 2%, that a new announcement will be made before the end of the month.

The Treasurer should know that hospitals are required to file a full operating plan and budget within 12 days from today's date. That plan has to include details of how hospitals will control costs and live within the provincial cost requirements. It has to include details of how hospitals will preserve as many health care services and sector jobs as possible. The plans had to be developed in the context of collaboration with key stakeholders in the community. That process took over a year. It appears that the entire revenue side of the operating balance sheet is in jeopardy.

I see that the Minister of Health is now back, so I can redirect the question. Will she be changing the deadline for the submission of the operating budgets and plans, since every hospital in the province may well have to go back to the drawing board?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): It seems to me that the member's question is premised on an assumption and projection of what the announcement with respect to transfer payments is going to be. I think the Treasurer's been very clear that no decision has been taken and that the review that's being undertaken is certainly being done in light of the fiscal situations that have been put forward.

Any of the timing questions with respect to what we expect of the hospitals around operational guidelines, around any of those issues, are things that I'm certainly willing at any time to sit down and talk about with the hospital association as to what's a reasonable approach.

Mrs Sullivan: The Minister of Health knows, because she set the rules, that the hospitals have to have their plans into her office 12 days from today. She should have been in touch with them long before this. Hospitals have few alternatives if their payments from the province are lower than 2%. The Treasurer indicated yesterday that they may well be lower than 2%.

Hospitals' alternatives? They can cut beds, they can cut staff, they can reduce services, they can decide not to replace broken or damaged equipment. They will also have increased costs. The minister knows that full well. There are arbitrated settlements outstanding for 35,000 hospital employees, with 40,000 nurses yet to come, and the minister has promised that health care services will be preserved and that medicare will not be put at risk.

The Minister of Health should be telling the hospitals if she is going to be making the judgement, providing the guidelines, the directions and the instructions on where hospitals will have to cut to meet reduced revenues: Will she spell out to every hospital and to every person in Ontario what hospital services will be available and what hospital services must be eliminated?

Hon Ms Lankin: The member raises the issue with respect to changing the deadline on the submission of operational guidelines as if this is the first time it's been talked about or as if I'm unaware of the issue. I've had direct discussions with the Ontario Hospital Association

about this issue. It was raised in the question-and-answer period at their annual convention, which I spoke to. I understand full well that if decisions taken by cabinet cause hospitals to go back to the drawing board, they will require more time to work with their partners, in terms of the unions and district health councils they have to consult with. That would be an obvious consequence of any changed decision.

What I've said to the member, echoing the Treasurer's statements here in the House and to the media, is that a decision has not been taken with respect to confirming or not confirming the projected transfer payment announcement. The question she's asking me is premature. I do, however, understand the concern she raised, that if that eventuality came about we would have to address those concerns.

Mrs Sullivan: There has not been adequate discussion with the hospitals on what would happen if the province were to transfer less than 2% to them. They have been planning, ever since the Treasurer made that announcement, for a 2% increase this year and a 2% increase next year. There has been no discussion about what would happen and how the province and the hospitals would deal with a transfer of less than 2%. That is nonsense.

Within the past couple of weeks the Treasurer met with the Ontario Hospital Association and told the hospitals that they've been doing a fine job over the past year coming to terms with the 1% transfer of last year and with the restructuring they've had to go through. I agree with that. I further agree that the hospitals have met, and are really attempting to meet, demanding planning standards that have been put in place by the Minister of Health to cope with service delivery for the coming year, including making wrenching decisions about staff cutbacks. They've worked with your government.

I'm asking the Minister of Health, what kinds of incentives will she provide to the hospitals to work with her again when she's changing the rules not only in mid-stream, but when the boat's already in port? How will the hospitals ever be able to trust this minister and this government again? There's no trust left.

1400

Hon Ms Lankin: The member, in the third supplementary, twists the answer I gave to the second supplementary. I specifically said we had had discussions with the Ontario Hospital Association about what would be an inevitable delay in the deadline for the submission of reports and plans from the operational guidelines if there was a change with respect to the announcement that the Treasurer is hoping to make near the end of this month.

I made no assertion that there had been full or lengthy discussions with the hospitals on how to plan for anything other than the projected transfer payment announcement that had come out, so it's nonsense to suggest that I said that and then to decry that's not true. It's not what I said.

I think the member acknowledges there has been a tremendous effort of all the parties in the health care sector to work through very difficult fiscal times and to have rigorous planning exercises, and to continue down that

road would be my intention. I would obviously say if there is any change in the course of what we expect of hospitals, we would have to sit down and undertake exactly what the member suggests. She is premature, though, because no decision has been made.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Minister of Education. Today is the ninth time in two years that I've asked your government to coordinate a nutrition program in our schools. Six months ago, you said you'd be making an announcement soon. I believed you, so I waited and thousands of children waited. Over a month ago I asked the same question again, for the eighth time, and you said, "Very shortly."

Minister, we now know that 1.1 million children in this country live below the StatsCan definition of the poverty line. Our children can't afford to wait any longer for you to get your act together. When will you be announcing that all Ontario children will have a nutrition program in their schools?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I appreciate the question from the leader of the third party. I want to say to him that we continue to work on this, together with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which has lead responsibility for this issue within the government. I remain very much committed, as we all do on this side of the House, to proceeding with this as quickly as possible.

We have been holding some discussions with school boards very recently to look at the experiences where programs are already in place. I know that through the Ministry of Community and Social Services, discussions have also been held with a variety of other groups within the last little while, and I expect all of that information is going to come together over the next little while. I realize this is taking longer than any of us would have wanted it to, but I can tell the member opposite that the commitment is there and the will is there to proceed with this as quickly as possible.

Mr Harris: It's been two years since I started raising this issue and I've been getting the same answer for two years. Over a year ago, I put forward a resolution in this House calling for nutrition programs, which received all-party support. I have visited schools in Toronto that already have a nutrition program. I've met with teachers, nutritionists and parents on this issue. My caucus included it as part of A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, which was New Directions, volume two.

I have done everything I know to push your government to act on this issue and you have done nothing. Why is it that a higher priority is more power for Bob White, a higher priority for your government is casinos, a higher priority for the NDP is developing and implementing new lottery games, a higher priority is 62 new ways to rip every last nickel out of the pockets of the taxpayers of this province? You've got all those studies, you've got all that time, but you have done nothing for hungry children going to school. Can you explain that to the people of Ontario?

Hon Mr Silipo: I disagree fundamentally with the comment opposite that we've done nothing for hungry

children. I think we would all agree there is a lot more that could be done and I think we're interested in doing that. I think, however, that through the work my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services has been undertaking, in fact a number of significant improvements have already happened outside of the school sector. There is very clearly an interest on our part in moving on this.

We know there is also disagreement out there. I think this is something the leader of the third party would also acknowledge, if he were to put partisanship aside, that there are also disagreements out there about how we should proceed with this, and in some cases, whether we should proceed with this. But I think we've been clear in saying that we want to do that, that we want to proceed, and what we are trying to do is to find the best way to make this work.

Mr Harris: This government seems to think that before anything can be brought in, it needs an interministerial committee, a study, a task force, and that you have to throw more money at it to solve the problem. We have more than a million people now on welfare, we have more and more people depending on food banks and more and more people living in shelters. Minister, government hand-outs or more money or more bureaucracy is not the answer to every problem.

There are parents, there are teachers and there are private sector businesses willing to help and donate. My program, which I gave to you two years ago, could have begun that day. It could start tomorrow at little or no cost to the taxpayer with a little cooperation and a little leadership from the Premier and from all 130 of us in this Legislature.

What I want to know is why your government has, obviously, with all the other hundreds of priorities, reneged on its promise to help feed hungry children in our schools.

Hon Mr Silipo: Trying very much to stay above the partisan fray in this one, because I think I agree with those comments the member opposite has made that indicate the seriousness of this matter, I think what I would say to him is that he knows full well that there really is nothing that prevents people from continuing to work on this issue and continuing to develop programs.

The issue he's put before us is how we can be of assistance in helping this kind of initiative develop and be entrenched throughout the province. I think we've said very clearly that we are in favour of doing that and we are continuing to work on the best way to put that in place. I for one am not particularly happy about the fact that it's taking us as long as it has, but I think we're sincere in our efforts to try to put this together in the best way possible.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I have a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding market value assessment for Metropolitan Toronto. Mr Minister, on November 3, I asked you in the House to begin public hearings on this issue immediately. Now it's over two weeks later and you still haven't begun public hearings. In fact, you haven't even given a commitment that you will have public hearings. I understand you plan on introducing this legislation either today or tomorrow. Will you also

announce now that you plan to begin public hearings immediately?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): First of all, I will be introducing the legislation today. The House leader for the third party will understand that when Metropolitan Toronto passed the resolution with its interim tax plan, that was simply a resolution. Then a formal request had to be made to the province. That was into the Thursday of the following week, so that was a week. Then a policy discussion had to ensue and the announcement was made and the legislation was drafted. Legislation is not drafted overnight; it takes some time to go through the approvals process. In fact, on what is a subject that is very controversial, the legislation is ready in very quick time.

I have indicated to the House leader for the third party in House leaders' meetings that this government will not stand in the way of public hearings. We never have and we never will.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): This issue demands public hearings. The interests of the taxpayers, whether residential or commercial, are at stake. They deserve the right to have their say on the issue. The hearings that were held at the municipal level were not on this plan. In fact, according to the media reports, what you intend to do is to introduce a lot more than enabling legislation. Minister, we demand public hearings immediately. Just tell us when you will begin and how long they will last.

Hon Mr Cooke: I'll be discussing the matter with the House leaders tomorrow. I've already had one discussion. It's not as if we haven't talked about this at all. I certainly think we should get second reading of the bill dealt with as quickly as possible and have public hearings before the House adjourns at Christmas. Then this matter will go back to Metropolitan Toronto, because all this bill does is give Metropolitan Toronto the same power that every other municipality has in the province. It's their decision. It should be their decision. That's what this bill will do, give the power to Metro Toronto, just like every other municipality in the province already has.

1410

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): The Municipal Affairs minister knows full well it's not the same power everybody else has. Why do you say that? If it were just the same power as everyone else had, you wouldn't have to bring legislation forward to amend it. Why are you telling me it's the same power as everyone else has? It's not the same power. It's not the same deal. You know it's not the same deal. You know it doesn't fall under section 63 or section 70. It's different.

You should be bringing legislation before this House, and you know full well that while you've been dilly-dallying for two weeks, you could have had public hearings. The public knows what the deal is. We know what the deal is. You're simply drafting it up in legal form.

The question that needs to be put to you, Mr Minister, is, why can't you have public hearings on this issue, beginning immediately? This committee doesn't have to travel. All those concerned citizens are within the Metro region. It

can be held here, in this building, in a very short period of time. It's not special powers. Everyone knows what the deal is. We know what your position in opposition was. Why can't we do that in the very near future?

Hon Mr Cooke: What I'm about to say scares the heck out of me: I agree with the member. I hope that between the three House leaders, we can get this bill dealt with for second reading and begin the public hearings on this next week.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Beer (York North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Minister, in January of this year, your colleague the Treasurer issued a statement. In that statement, referring to all the major transfer partners of the province—hospitals, schools, colleges, universities and municipalities—he said, "To help plan the reform and restructuring that must take place in each of these sectors, I am today announcing their funding levels for the next three years... For each of the two following years"—to the one we're in now—"transfer agencies will receive a 2% increase."

I say to the minister, you served on a school board. You were a chair of a school board. You know the need for proper planning. You know the need to be able to count on the province to provide the funding that it has promised. You also know of the tremendous pressures school boards are under today. My colleague from Nipissing has noted the need for a nutrition program. You're going into destreaming, junior kindergarten, a whole host of programs that need funding.

Minister, will you commit here and now that the school boards of this province are going to receive a 2% increase in transfer payments for next year?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I think the Treasurer has answered that question already, when he was asked yesterday. It's interesting and useful that the rounds are being made of all the ministers in the sectors. Obviously, the announcement will be made by the Treasurer in due course. What I can tell the member opposite is that all the concerns he's outlined today are all concerns that clearly we are aware of and that clearly are part of the discussions we're having and will be reflected in the decision that's made.

Mr Beer: It's a delight to know that you're talking, you're concerned, you're consulting, but what boards need to know, what parents need to know, what the school population of the province needs to know is, will the educational system be adequately funded for next year according to the promises that you and your government have made?

If you're not prepared to commit to the promise on the transfer payments, then what about capital? It has already been noted that you had made commitments around a nutritional program on many occasions. I have risen in this House and in estimates to ask you, on at least three or four occasions, when you were going to announce the next capital funding allocation. As recently as October, you said by the end of October. Again, Minister, school boards are waiting, and by waiting, it means that kids are still in portables, that plans can't be done.

Minister, will you commit to a specific date before the House rises prior to the Christmas recess when you will stand in this House and tell us what the capital allocations will be? Will you do that?

Hon Mr Silipo: The capital announcement is scheduled for tomorrow in this House.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I'm going to follow up my colleague the member for York North's question to the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, you've just announced that the capital grants will be announced tomorrow to the school boards, and that's good news because school boards are in the business of planning and this government isn't.

I would like to ask you, with regard to the questionnaire that you sent out on implementation of debenture financing, whether any of the information that you did receive from the school boards in this regard will have any impact on how you're going to make that announcement tomorrow and whether or not you're going to do it in a new manner.

Hon Mr Silipo: No, there have not been any decisions made with respect to the issue that the member raises with respect to any possible move to debenture financing, so the announcements will be made in the normal course of events. Obviously, they're subject to any changes that we might make in the way in which we might fund projects, but I think what's clear and what I want to be clear about is that there has never been any intention in the process to do anything other than continue to fund projects.

In other words, even if we were to go to a debenture system, we would be, through that system, continuing to pay the borrowing costs and the costs on an annual basis that would be the equivalent of the provincial grant. So there is no reduction in any way, whatever format we would use, of a commitment of funding from the provincial end.

Mrs Cunningham: With regard to the response that the minister has just made and the servicing costs that his government is prepared to pay, he should know that any announcement that he makes tomorrow, because he has waited so long—traditionally we would have these announcements in the spring of the year—that no school board will be able to get through the process of approvals so that they in fact can build new schools by next September.

I am going to ask the minister right now if, because of the statement coming so late and these announcements being made so late in the school year, he will be making recommendations to his staff that the approvals process could be speeded up so that schools can be built and opened in September 1993 for the students who have been waiting for so long.

Hon Mr Silipo: I think the member would know that the announcement that we are talking about, the funding that we're talking about, relates to the 1995-96 allocations, and certainly there are approvals that would have to be carried out. I don't see any problem in looking at whatever we can do to speed up the approvals process. I think that would make absolute sense, and certainly we would do that.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk): My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It's been about two years since the GATT negotiations were scheduled to end. They were scheduled to end in December 1990. For nearly a year now, the GATT negotiations have appeared to be in a state of complete deadlock because of a failure of the European Community and the United States to resolve their differences in regard to agriculture and subsidies. Recent press reports indicate that the EC and the US are now close to resolving the differences that they have.

I would like to know what chances there might be, and what changes there might be in the chances, of resuming those negotiations very shortly, or are we headed, as some of us fear, into an all-out agricultural trade war? I wonder what you could tell the producers in my riding of Norfolk to let them know what the feedback is that you're getting right now from the federal counterparts at this point in time.

1420

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I want to thank the member for his question. Indeed I get that question from a number of farmers across the province: What is the future of the GATT negotiations?

First off, I would like to reassure the members in the House and the farmers in the province that Ontario and Canada indeed still have the same position in terms of the GATT negotiations. We still support supply management, the clarification of Article XI, and we still support the reduction of export subsidies for grains.

We have some concerns about what the United States has done in imposing tariffs on some European Community products in terms of wine, rapeseed oil, wheat gluten which they intend to bring in on December 5. We are concerned that may lead to an all-out trade war.

We do have reason to be optimistic in terms of the GATT talks. One of the reasons—notwithstanding what's in the newspaper, because there's some optimism being expressed in newspaper stories—but the fact that Mr MacSharry has returned to be part of the GATT talks would suggest to us at least and the federal minister, whom we met with yesterday, that there's some optimism about having a successful conclusion to the GATT talks.

Mr Jamison: I know we're all very hopeful that these kinds of concerns that deal directly with the welfare of our rural communities, the future, the whole economic fabric of our rural communities indeed—but we have the federal government negotiating, and if I look at history, I don't have a great reliance in the federal government negotiating any trade pact.

My question is, how would Ontario in fact respond if the GATT agreement on agriculture is signed shortly?

Hon Mr Buchanan: It's difficult to respond to an agreement where we don't know what's in the agreement. But it is useful to let everyone know that there is in fact a plan. The ministers of agriculture from across the country met in Toronto in the last two days and that was one of the issues we talked about: What if there is a GATT agreement, and how will we work on implementation?

All the ministers agreed on four or five principles that we would start to work on right away. One of the things we agreed to was that provincial and federal governments would assess jointly the impact of the GATT agreement that's signed. We agreed, again jointly, to develop a set of principles we would use to design an implementation process. We also decided to work on efforts to define or decide on opportunities we would have to export as well as open up our markets and, finally, we agreed to assess the support programs for farmers jointly between governments.

We believe that by working with the farm industry, the farm leaders, the food industry and other levels of government we can implement any GATT deal that's brought in successfully and will be good for agriculture here in Ontario and in Canada.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a question for the minister—actually for the Premier, but he's not here, he's off in Asia—so I have this question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

The minister will remember that in the latter part of 1991 I brought to the attention of the government the fact that there was a good possibility there would be a closing of General Motors operations somewhere in the province of Ontario, and I mentioned specifically the foundry and engine plant in St Catharines.

He will know that in February of this year, General Motors announced that the foundry would be closing and that one of the engine lines would be closing down, and there had already been an announcement of 750 indefinite layoffs, which usually means permanent layoffs. That's 3,000 jobs lost in the auto industry in one community, the community of St Catharines.

With the purge of corporation executives that has taken place in the United States, it is clear now that this means that the proposed cuts General Motors had announced (a) will come faster and (b) will be more drastic than those announced by Mr Stempel.

Would the minister tell the House what personal representations the Premier of Ontario has made to the top executives of General Motors in Detroit in an effort to persuade them to keep all of their operations in Ontario open so that workers in St Catharines, Oshawa, London and Windsor can be assured that the top gun in the province of Ontario is personally handling this problem and trying to prevent those job losses?

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): We've appointed a full-time person, my former deputy, Mr Tim Armstrong, to work with the auto industry—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): All the Premier does is leave town.

Hon Mr Philip: Mr Speaker, it's very hard to be heard over the member for Oriole. If she'd at least like to listen, then I'll give an answer.

We've been working closely with Mr George Peapples, the chairman of GM of Canada, who also serves on the Premier's advisory council, and I'm also a member. We recognize that there are some 5,500 auto jobs in the St

Catharines area and we're concerned about those jobs. We have been doing some very specific things to make the auto industry more competitive, things that should have been done under the Liberals.

For example, my colleague the Minister for Skills Development announced an \$18-million program—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Philip: —on skills development to make the auto industry more competitive. That's the kind of thing that will go a long way when it comes to GM deciding where the plants are going to close and how it's going to rationalize its operations.

Mr Bradley: I have a list of plant closings in the province of Ontario which goes several pages and indicates clearly that whatever policy you are developing so far hasn't worked.

The minister will know that when the Premier visited the city of St Catharines this summer, it was reported in the St Catharines Standard, an impeccable source, that he told a group, including the Save the Foundry Committee, and I quote the following:

"Ontario Premier Rae said, 'It is an illusion to think General Motors will change its mind on closing its St Catharines foundry and killing 2,300 jobs. No company in the world could lose \$4 billion like GM last year and not make changes. This idea that somehow government can solve the problem or that we can get General Motors—or any government can get General Motors—to do something totally different is an illusion.'"

Given that General Motors will be aware of what the Premier had to say, given that General Motors will be aware that the Premier appears to have rolled over and played dead on saving the foundry, will the minister place a telephone call to the Premier of the province of Ontario today and ask him to come home from the Far East to deal with what is obviously a genuine and real and immediate crisis in the auto industry in the province of Ontario so that we can be assured, not that a deputy minister or a former deputy minister or a minister is dealing with this, but that, as in the United States, where the governors deal with this, in this country the Premier, the top person in this province, will deal with the top person in General Motors to save those jobs?

Hon Mr Philip: I think what the people of Ontario want is the truth and that's what the Premier of Ontario has told the people of Ontario. He's been realistic in his assessment. His assessment is consistent with other analyses done of the auto industry.

Mrs Caplan: You have to do something. You can't let this happen.

The Speaker: The member for Oriole, please come to order.

Hon Mr Philip: What the people of Ontario want is the truth and I think the Premier told the truth to the people of Ontario and told them exactly the state of the auto industry, and that's what the people want. They don't want the doom and gloom, the foam and fume of the opposition that we hear day after day.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Philip: Are you going to bring order so that I may answer, Mr Speaker?

The Speaker: It would be helpful if the members in the opposition would allow the minister to complete his response, and I'm sure he can do it quite succinctly.

Hon Mr Philip: The member for St Catharines said that all he hears about is closings. He doesn't mention, though, that Ford Motor invested \$2 billion, the largest investment of any auto company anywhere in the world in one place, and it invested here in Ontario. He doesn't mention that GM on July 13 announced that its Oshawa 2 plant had been awarded production of the 1994 Chevy Lumina.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Philip: He doesn't mention that GE is moving a number of its major operations into Ontario, because he doesn't want to hear good news. He only wants the doom and gloom for his own partisan, political purposes. That's what he wants to hear, not the truth from the Premier.

1430

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): My question is for the Minister of Correctional Services, in the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services, I must say at the outset. In September I raised issues about the Syl Apps centre and about overcrowding at closed- and open-custody young offender facilities in this province. I direct the minister to the November 2 Hansard in this House.

It has come to my attention that York detention centre here in downtown Toronto, which is rated with 36 beds for young offenders, had 47 children in that facility on the weekend, of which quite a few have been forced to sleep on the floor in that facility. The boys' unit, which has been a boys' unit for many years, has 19 beds. Of the 27 who have been jammed into that one unit, six young girls are also in that unit.

As a result of this serious overcrowding situation, even though there are 18 empty beds at Syl Apps in Oakville, a decision was made under the cover of darkness last night to move four young offender girls into an adult women's prison here in the city of Toronto. I ask the minister, are you aware of the decision that was made, did you approve of this decision to put these young girls into your jail and, if you're not aware of it, what are you doing about it?

Hon David Christopherson (Minister of Correctional Services): I'm aware, obviously, of the overcrowding issues that exist across the system and in particular in the Metro area. With regard to young offenders, we have a surplus of beds in the overall system, but, again, in specific locations, particularly in the Metro area, we do find ourselves with a shortage. We are dealing with that as best we can. We are looking at moving people more often to other facilities.

The honourable member will know this is not something that is done lightly and it's not something we like to do, because it does move young offenders further away from their homes, from their communities, from the centres, from the courts and from services.

The specific incident that happened last evening I am not aware of. I will follow up and I will get back to the member.

Mr Jackson: Minister, for your information, these four young offenders were transferred to the Vanier facility here in Metro Toronto at 7:15 last night. I've had several conversations with staff and others associated with this transfer, and what is completely distressing here is that they failed to advise you and your office of this incident and that the child advocates, who are allegedly, under the law, there to be able to protect these individuals, have been denied access.

Interjection.

Mr Jackson: I'd appreciate it if the former Correctional Services minister would allow the minister to receive this question. It's a serious matter.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I'll bet you would.

Mr Jackson: I am asking the question. I wanted the undivided attention of the minister.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the member place his question through the Chair, please.

Mr Jackson: I will. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The fact of the matter is that under the protocols in your prisons, those girls were denied access to the phone call of the advocate. These girls, in tears, have talked to one advocate. They've been threatened and they want out of that facility. One of these young ladies has never been in closed detention before. The Attorney General of this province and the police will not put adult offenders and child offenders in the same holding cell in a court—

The Speaker: Would the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Jackson: —and you have them locked up in a jail in this city. I ask you, Minister, to get on the phone and get this resolved today, and get those four children out of that facility. When you have 18 beds at Syl Apps in Oakville sitting there doing nothing, no wonder the Minister of Community and Social Services isn't in the House today.

Hon Mr Christopherson: Obviously, I will of course discuss the matter with my colleague from Comsoc. But let me say once again that obviously an issue like this that's raised in the House will be followed up.

Let me also say that it is not unusual for an incident that happened last evening with regard to transfers of individuals. That's an operational matter and I think the honourable member would know that, with 50 institutions across the province, it is the policy that these decisions are made by the superintendents and it is not possible for a minister. I think the member knows that. I will take what he has said, review the matter very promptly and get back to him.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr David Winninger (London South): My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. My riding of London South is located in a university city. This is one reason I want to ask you, Minister, about our government's outlook on the income-contingent repayment plan. I understand that this is a plan to amend the student loan plan so that a student's repayment of financial assistance is determined by the student's future income level.

I also appreciate that under a contingent repayment plan the means test for receiving a public subsidy is shifted from the student's parents to the student as graduate. The rate of repayment would depend on how high a level of income the graduating student will earn in his or her chosen field.

The Council of Ontario Universities has spoken of contingent repayment plans as a way of promoting greater access to higher education and maintaining excellence in an affordable university system. Minister, how actively is your ministry considering implementing an income-contingent repayment plan?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): It is not just the Council of Ontario Universities. As recently as yesterday, a new student organization in Ontario, holding a media conference in this very place, made reference to its interest in an income-contingent loan repayment plan, which can be otherwise interpreted as a progressive way of debt management for students upon graduation.

Certainly there has been a need for some time to have a better way for students to be able to handle the debt they build up in post-secondary education. The research that has been done to date indicates this can be a viable plan. Indeed, our own ministry has been very active over the past year in funding some research on simulation models to see how well they might be applied in the Ontario case. Two principal difficulties face us.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Allen: The question of debt management is always an important matter for any one of us, and I think it's important to address it for students. The difficulties facing that kind of plan are, first, that the upfront money required to put it in place is very expensive, and, second, that you have to have access to income tax techniques and revenues in order to get a repayment system geared to income going.

Mr Winninger: The opposition may not be entirely interested in the future of higher education in Ontario—

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Tell him it is our plan, Mr Minister.

Mr Winninger: —but I wonder, Minister, how soon a contingent repayment plan, such as guaranteed Ontario assisted loans for students, might replace our current Ontario student assistance program.

Mrs Cunningham: Come to my meeting on the 28th, David.

Hon Mr Allen: The member for London North is very interested in this question because the same university that the member has in his riding is also very close to hers. The answer to that question as to how soon is not exactly in my hands. In order to implement this, as I said, it's important to have access to the Department of National Revenue and its income tax computer system as a means of collecting the repayment plan from students. To be able to control the federal dollars that go into student loan programs today is also a necessity. It is necessary to work this out with the federal government.

Currently, I have a working group which represents my ministry, the Treasurer's ministry, the Department of National Revenue and the office of the Secretary of State federally working on this very project. It will require the recruitment of some other provincial ministers to come on board, but at the end of the day I think we can devise a progressive scheme. If other people will support it, we can get on with it. But I can't make that answer unilaterally.

1440

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the acting—

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: The member for London South imputed a motive to the caucus of the Conservative Party vis-à-vis the issue of the income-contingent loan repayment plan. I would ask him to withdraw that. At the same time, I would ask a page to send over New Directions.

The Speaker: Order. Would the leader take his seat, please. The member does not have a point of privilege.

Mr Harris: Page 22 will tell him and the minister how to implement an—

The Speaker: Would the leader please take his seat. The member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: I suppose now that my question and the answer from the minister are going to have to use up the remaining eight and a half minutes.

The Speaker: To whom is your question directed?

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation regarding a bill I think he's become very familiar with over the past couple of days, Bill 92, the private member's bill I put forward, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

I've heard rumours flying all over the hall. I heard yesterday that the House leader received clearance—I'm not sure whether it was from the Orient or where—to proceed with this. I heard today that the bill would be introduced for second and third reading tomorrow. Then I heard that the minister was on a media show today saying that he was thinking of changing the age in the bill from 18 to 16 and that perhaps it could be done by regulation instead of legislation.

I don't know what's going on here, but I can only tell you that every phone-in radio talk show in the province is

talking about this, every media outlet is talking about this, every parent is talking about this, every retailer is talking about this.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And your question?

Mr Mahoney: They want to know—
Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: Well, you have an opportunity to do something about this, and all the House leader can do is act like a smart-aleck about it.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Look who is talking, for God's sake: Mr Steve Ego.

The Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr Mahoney: My question to the minister is, are you prepared to grant unanimous consent today to bring Bill 92 on to the floor of the Legislature this afternoon so we can stop kids from spending their lunch money on gambling in their corner stores?

Hon Ed Philip (Acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation): Only that member would have such an ego to think that the most important thing in the world is his private member's bill.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Look who's talking.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Mr Speaker, stand back. His head may explode.

Mr Eves: No wonder you don't wear a hat, Ed. None will fit.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia): You are too much.

The Speaker: Order. Surely the last thing we want to do is to compare egos. Would the minister please respond.

Hon Mr Philip: I've always been nice to him. I sent him a can of moustache wax for Christmas last year and he doesn't seem to appreciate it.

We are prepared to move ahead with this bill. There are ways in which legislation moves ahead. I've asked that we deal with the bill before the House adjourns. I think that it is up to the House leaders to schedule the bill in an orderly way.

There are some concerns which I think we should debate openly, as with any bill and as with any private member's bill; namely, should it be, as some people have suggested, age 16 or age 18? I haven't made a decision on that. We have had legal opinions as to whether or not there could be a charter challenge. The legal opinion by the Attorney General is that the bill would be in keeping with the charter. There are a number of issues like that which we are looking at.

We're also concerned about how you implement the bill. Should it be implemented in a different way than we presently implement our regulations concerning the fact that you're not allowed to sell to young people, or are there other ways in which we should implement it? We do not want to have a bill that will impose an unnecessary, excessive reporting system on merchants.

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Philip: Those are issues which I'm sure the member would want to discuss in private members' hour, or whenever the bill is introduced.

The Speaker: Could the minister please take his seat.

Mr Mahoney: I'm not interested in this going to private members' hour. We and the public in Ontario, more than on any issue I've ever seen, are interested in this becoming law immediately.

Don't give me all this cockamammy stuff about charter challenges. If some lawyer wants to challenge a kid's right to gamble in the corner stores let him do so, because that leads to challenging his right to drive a car before the age of 16 or to buy booze in a bar before the age of 16—

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): Or 19.

Mr Mahoney: Whatever, 19, that's right, or to buy cigarettes. I said this before: Maybe what we should do is lower the eligibility age for cabinet. Maybe we'd get somebody with some brains over there who would deal with this.

The Speaker: Would the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Mahoney: Even the kids understand how serious this is. The kids understand.

Minister, don't start dithering on this. This is not a personal problem. This bill should have the names of 130 members of this Legislature on it—not my name; every member of the Legislature.

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: I hope you're going to bring this bill in by unanimous consent and have a recorded vote and support the bill.

The Speaker: Order. Will the member please take his seat. Does the member have a supplementary? If so, please place it quickly.

Mr Mahoney: Minister, will you support this bill being brought in with unanimous consent this afternoon so we can stop kids from gambling their money away in this province?

Hon Mr Philip: I'm sure the member, who never made it into a cabinet when his own party was in government, has a lot of ideas about the qualifications for cabinet ministers.

We will proceed with the bill.

ONTARIO FILM REVIEW BOARD

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

We've been watching for some time now the frustration, at least on this side—I know the member for Leeds-Grenville has been observing the answers given by the Solicitor General on the problems of increasing crime in this province, the lack of funding to the police, the increasing sexual assaults that are taking place and the violent crimes that are increasing.

Madam Minister, you are the minister who is in charge of the Ontario Film Review Board. The Ontario Law

Reform Commission released a report last week recommending that the Ontario Film Review Board change its role to one of only classifying films and do away with censorship. Do you agree with the law reform commission's views of stripping the power from the Ontario Film Review Board to censor or prohibit certain films from being shown in Ontario?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): First of all, it's important to remember—I just read the report a few days ago myself—that the commission does not suggest that restrictions of certain types of pornographic materials aren't necessary. They are saying that they've made a whole series of suggestions, and you can't take any one of those out of context. They all have to be dealt with in context.

My view is that the report says there may be more effective ways for government to restrict these images than through the film review board. I believe that although the report provides examples, several of them, as to how that may be done, we have to have a very careful analysis of whether or not it would work. The law report did not specify and did not do an analysis of its ideas, whether or not they would be better or worse or about the same.

Mr Tilson: The commission is simply saying that all it is going to do is classify films. They're essentially doing away with censorship, and that is the question I asked of you.

Violence in Ontario is spiralling upwards faster than the police or anyone else can do to control it. Certainly, your government and the Solicitor General are doing absolutely nothing to solve this problem.

My question to you is, when are you and when is the Solicitor General going to show some leadership in this province and become part of the solution instead of ignoring the problem?

Hon Ms Churley: Certainly, I've already said in this House that some of the recommendations made in this report have already been suggested by me to the film review board. They are going to be reporting back to me in the very near future about some of the very recommendations that were made in this report. That involves more information pieces, the information pieces being larger, and we're looking at labelling, particularly the pornographic material.

I certainly will say categorically to you today, no, I don't support at this time just adopting this report. We have to do an analysis of the suggestions in it. I'm not about to do anything that drastically changes the mandate of this board without analysing if another system would work better or the same or what.

Certainly, we don't want, I don't want child pornography out there, slasher films, the kind of horrible stuff that comes to the board. So, no, of course, at this point we have to do an analysis, and we're not about to make drastic changes. We are in fact in the process of making information to people more available at this time.

1450

PETITIONS

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I have a petition to the Parliament of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas the proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of citizens and the communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we in the union, with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I've also affixed my signature to this petition, which has got thousands of names on it.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): I'd like to introduce a petition on behalf of the member for Beaches-Woodbine. It states:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition here expressing opposition to Bill 38. It has 72 signatures of people from my riding in Mississauga East, from Etobicoke and from Toronto and surrounding areas.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased

business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region;

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax;

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

This is signed by many constituents of mine and to which I have also affixed my signature.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition from 40 residents of the county of Middlesex, including the villages of Lambeth, Dorchester and Thamesford, who petition the Legislative Assembly to set aside the report of arbitrator John Brant as it relates to the greater London area annexation, because that report does not reflect the expressed wishes of the residents of Middlesex for a reduced annexation and will jeopardize the agricultural land and viability of the county of Middlesex.

I have signed my name to this petition.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly, which reads:

"Whereas the Ontario Lottery Corp has introduced the Pro Line sports lottery; and

"Whereas our young people are being encouraged to gamble on professional sports games; and

"Whereas this gambling has turned all lottery outlets into bookie joints, thereby legalizing gambling on professional sports;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the province of Ontario should immediately pass private member's Bill 92 to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets to children."

I agree with this petition and affix my signature thereto.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metro Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region; and

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax;

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a second petition here from seven members of the riding of Middlesex who ask the Legislative Assembly to set aside Bill 38 and return Sunday to the list of legal and business holidays.

I've signed my name to this petition.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): This petition is now particularly important since the government has announced it's going to introduce the dastardly market value assessment plan.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as a basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax at the wrong time in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas, if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I have signed this petition, both in accordance with the rules and because I wholeheartedly agree with it.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I too have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature of Ontario.

"As a citizen of Ontario, I give my full support to our police officers in their stand against the NDP government's new regulation, use-of-force reporting, and therefore request the immediate resignation of the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board, Ms Susan Eng. This petition is for the safety of the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto and its police officers, also regarding Ms Eng's lack of support for the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force and the chief of said police force, William McCormack."

I have signed and fully endorse this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature "to reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, to condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

It's signed by residents of the county of Middlesex. I affix my signature.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have signed my name to this petition.

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RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I present a petition on behalf of the Hellenic Canadian Community of Ottawa and District.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I present the petition, Mr Speaker.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a petition to the Parliament of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security; and

"Whereas this proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of the citizens in their communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect; and

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas the union and the spouses of Ontario police officers support the health and safety concerns of the members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows: That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and that this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I've affixed my signature, Mr Speaker.

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): "Whereas the Ontario Lottery Corp has introduced the Pro Line sports lottery; and

"Whereas our young people are being encouraged to gamble on professional sports games; and

"Whereas this gambling has turned all lottery outlets into bookie joints by legalizing gambling on professional sports;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the province of Ontario should immediately pass private member's Bill 92 to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets to children."

I have affixed my signature to this.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My petition is to the government of Ontario, specifically to the Premier and the Solicitor General.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police associations across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite"—this is what it is—"representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns." It's hard to believe you have to put a petition in just asking for a meeting.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have signed this as well because I believe that when you have to petition for a meeting it's a pretty sad day in this province.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region; and

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment value plan is an unfair location tax;

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

This is signed by many members of my constituency and to which I affix my signature.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I also have a petition to the government of Ontario and it's signed by many thousands of people.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province.

"We therefore join with the spouses of Ontario police officers in petitioning Premier Bob Rae to invite representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns.

"Surely this government, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, will exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about the people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have also signed this.

ONTARIO HYDRO PRESIDENT

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The other day—and I appreciate that you were not in the chair at the time—the member for Ottawa South and the member for Parry Sound asked the Speaker for some direction in dealing with the standing committee on resources development and the witnesses who were supposed to attend there.

The request was essentially that the Speaker rule about whether to issue Speaker's warrants to compel witnesses to attend before that committee. That committee begins its deliberations after routine proceedings today, and we therefore need some direction so that these hearings can proceed properly and so that witnesses will attend and make these hearings realistic and accomplish the purpose that was set out as requested in standing order 125.

I wonder if you might be able to provide us with that direction or call upon the Speaker who was in the chair so that we can have this resolved before 3:30 today and so that we can begin our hearings properly.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): As you know, the Speaker yesterday reserved his decision and he will deliver the decision as soon as possible.

Reports by committees.

Mr Harnick: Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Another point of order?

Mr Harnick: Yes, if I may. "As soon as possible" is really not very much help for us today because the committee is about to sit, probably in 25 minutes. I wonder if we could impose upon the Speaker who was in the chair to provide us with some direction now, because that committee is about to start sitting.

The Deputy Speaker: As mentioned before, the Speaker has the prerogative of doing all the research and then come out with a decision. He doesn't have the authority to tell the committee when to sit and where to meet. Perhaps I should not make a recommendation to you, but I believe I've said enough to you.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's 18th report.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Runciman presents the committee's 18th report. Do you have any comments to make?

Pursuant to standing order 106(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

On motion by Mr Hampton, on behalf of Mr Cooke, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto

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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PROTECTION ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ESCARPEMENT DU NIAGARA

On motion by Mr Murdoch, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 95, An Act to revise the Law relating to the Protection of the Niagara Escarpment and the Surrounding Wetlands / Loi révisant la loi concernant la protection de l'escarpement du Niagara et des terres marécageuses environnantes

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Does the member have any statement?

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): The bill repeals the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. The bill provides for the designation of the Niagara Escarpment and surrounding wetlands as a natural area. The designation can only be made if it is approved by each municipality within the area to be designated. Development in the natural area is prohibited unless approved by the municipality where the land is situated and assembled. If the natural boundaries of the Niagara Escarpment and the surrounding wetlands change, then the boundaries of the natural area can also be changed. The changes to the boundaries of the natural area must be approved by the municipalities affected and by this assembly.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Because of major concerns with respect to Bill 74 and its companion legislation, I'm going to request unanimous consent of the House to place a motion that would enable reconsideration of the House's motion of May 28, 1992, which required time allocation in committee of the whole House. I can put that motion to you so that unanimous consent can be considered. My motion would read:

"I move that the House reconsider its motion of May 28, 1992, with respect to Bill 74 and companion legislation and the consideration of Bills 74, 108, 109 and 110 should proceed according to the regular standing orders of the assembly."

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Interjections: Yes.

Interjections: No.

The Deputy Speaker: There's no unanimous consent.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TORONTO ISLANDS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA ZONE RÉSIDENIELLE DES ÎLES DE TORONTO

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands / Loi concernant les îles Algonquin et Ward's et concernant l'administration de la zone résidentielle des îles de Toronto.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Etobicoke West, you have the floor.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Interjection: No more.

Mr Stockwell: Oh, there's more. There's a lot more, as a matter of fact, Mr Speaker. Those lucky members across the floor are probably going to hear a lot about this sweetheart deal they cut with the islanders, probably more than they're going to want to hear, because you've just cut a deal where you've given those people on the island a

deal for a house in the park that Metro pays for, for a buck a day. For 100 years they get a buck a day as their rent.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): You said that 10 times yesterday.

Mr Stockwell: I said that 10 times; I'll say it 50 times. I'm going to keep saying it in committee, I'm going to say it in this House, because it's one of the most unbelievable affronts to the taxpayers in this province that you can suggest, considering you won both polls on the island, that you can pay these people off for 100 years, to give them rent on a house in a park on the island for a buck a day for 100 years.

In Metropolitan Toronto you can't even get on the bus and go to work for a buck a day, but if you happen to vote NDP, you happen to live on the island and you happen to want to live on an island in a park paid for by the taxpayers, your rent will be a buck a day for 100 years. Now that has got to be one of the sweetest deals that any government has ever cut with any citizens. I had a lot of phone calls about this, believe it or not, from yesterday—

Mr Mills: So did I.

Mr Stockwell: —and a lot of the people who phoned me said, "I can't believe it, Mr Stockwell."

Mr Mills: You should hear what they say about it.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, do your best to control the member from Durham. I understand he's got a very intense interest in this. But what they told me was—

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): How much is a lot, Chris? Is one a lot, Chris?

Mr Stockwell: Oh, there's Drummond. It's good to see you've opened your eyes. Good. Thank you.

They said to me: "How can I get one of those houses? What do I do to go about applying for one of those houses that costs a buck a day for 100 years that I can hand down to my children and my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren?"

Some of those people were single mothers, some of them were seniors, some of them were people who were looking for a place to live and they're paying \$500, \$600, \$700; some were presently paying upwards of \$1,000 for their three and four children.

They said, "How do I go about getting one of these units?" I said, "You can't get them, because the only people who can live in those units are the people who happen to be living there at the time."

You know what else I did? I wanted to go through this list and I wanted to come up and just let all those people opposite and all the people in the province know exactly who's living on these islands, exactly who's going to be paying a buck a day, \$30 a month, for 100 years.

You know, it's kind of interesting. I won't give any names, but I went through the assessment rolls and I found out some of the occupations. You have doctors living on the island for a buck a day for 100 years. You've got lawyers. Lawyers living on the island will pay a buck a day, \$30 a month in rent, for 100 years. You've got councillors in the city of Toronto with NDP affiliation who are

going to live on the island for a buck a day, \$30 a month, for 100 years.

Mr White: Any Tory councillors?

Mr Stockwell: Funny, there weren't. There are teachers in the public school system who are on the island paying a buck a day, \$30 a month, for 100 years. School principals—and we all know how well school principals are paid these days. There are school principals on the island who are going to pay a buck a day for 100 years; never increase the rent. Funny enough that both these polls overwhelmingly voted for the sitting NDP member. You'd think that would have had something to do with it. I'm not sure.

Get this: academics. We've got university professors who are going to live on the island for 100 years, and their children will live there for a buck a day for ever. This is the tough, hard-nosed negotiated settlement that Mr Cooke—

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): How many people are there, five million?

Mr Stockwell: Some 650—can you get that?—650 people live there. This is incredible: 650. I'm just listing you some of their occupations.

Hon Mr Pouliot: How long have they been there, Chris?

Mr Stockwell: There's another question coming from the Minister of Transportation: "How long have they been there?"

1520

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I'd just like to remind the members, there's a period of two minutes afterwards given to you to address the debate and ask questions. In the meantime, I would ask you to refrain from heckling.

Mr Stockwell: I couldn't help but hear the last question, chiding me as if they've all lived there a long time. He said, "How long have they lived there?" I got the assessment rolls, Mr Speaker. Do you know that some of those people have lived there less than a year? Some of those people have lived there two years, three years, some a few months.

How come they got to live on the island? How come they get this deal? They were in the right place at the right time, because they were Johnnies-come-lately and they were squatters in our park, in the middle of a park. They arrived some few months earlier and they've got a lease for 100 years for a buck a day, 80 cents American. This is what it comes down to.

But I'm not finished. There are some other people on this list. The university professors I'll tell you about. University professors living on this island making very good money pay a buck a day for the rest of their lives as a rent. Civil servants who work in this province, whose income is guaranteed by the taxpayers—now get this one: The taxpayers guarantee their wages and the salaries and then they're also going to guarantee their rent to live in the middle of a park at taxpayers' expense for a buck a day.

Therapists live on the island. Alpha Consultants is based on the island, which this group opposite tried to hire

during the Constitution meetings, and you called them animators. You said they were animators, not consultants, and they would help you facilitate. These people live on the island and they're going to live there for a buck a day for 100 years. You'd think they had an in up here. Now, I wouldn't be so abrupt to say that they had an in up here, but you'd think they would, considering the deal they got: a buck a day for the rest of their lives, 100 years.

Psychologists, several businessmen, engineers, architects, all these people. We've got children who don't have a home; we've got single mothers; we've got seniors; we've got families in the streets, but we better house doctors, lawyers, teachers, consultants, therapists, civil servants, university professors on a buck a day for 100 years. That's Bob Rae's Ontario. That's his socialist Ontario at work. There's Bob Rae's Ontario. There's Floyd Laughren's Ontario. There's the socialists' Ontario: "We'll house these people for a buck a day for 100 years and we'll let all others be damned, stay on the streets. We don't mind."

So we've now had a government so morally and socially bankrupt that owed a debt of gratitude to two polls on the island. It had two polls help to elect one member and you're paying them off in spades. You're giving them thousands and thousands of taxpayers' dollars.

You know what I did? I went to my accountant and I asked him, "Gee, what would it be if we present-valued this rent?" He said that if you took \$600 a month as an average rent, which I consider reasonable in a city the size of Metro Toronto, and said just assume the inflation rate of 4% a year—they're still going to be in these homes in 2092—take that rent at \$600, add 4% interest, you know what the rent would be in 2092? Their rent would be \$28,000 a month. What will this government's action charge them? Only \$30, a buck a day. If you took the \$600 and factored in a 4% increase due to inflation, it would be \$28,000 a month.

But these people voted NDP. So, since they voted NDP, we got a government that had to pay them off. No matter how socially corrupt, no matter how morally bankrupt, no matter how unfair and twisted this kind of decision is, they had to pay them off. Boy, they paid them off, I'll tell you. They paid them off as well as anybody's been paid off. I don't think anybody's been paid off like this by a government. Nobody.

I dare anyone to go out and find a house in the middle of a park with all the services provided that would rent to you for 30 bucks a month for 100 years. That's unbelievable.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): On the waterfront.

Mr Stockwell: On the waterfront.

They say this is an equitable and fair and rational decision to make on behalf of the taxpayers of Ontario. Shame on you, the deputy parliamentary assistant to the minister. You accepted this deal. This deal's a ripoff. Shame on you. You say you care about seniors. Why don't you fill the houses with seniors who are in need of rent, needing a place to stay for a buck a day? Shame on you. Because these people, the doctors and lawyers and teachers—

The Deputy Speaker: Please address your remarks to the Chair.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, these doctors and lawyers and principals and professors and therapists and consultants and psychologists and businessmen don't need—

Hon Mr Pouliot: And car dealers.

Mr White: Car dealers.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Curbsiders.

Mr Stockwell: This isn't funny, Mr Speaker. This isn't funny. It is unbelievable that you people would accept this. This is not funny. These people don't need a subsidy. These people—

Interjection: Stick to the truth then.

Mr Stockwell: The truth? What is the truth then? Let's hear you stand up and give me the truth. Get back to your seat and tell me the truth then. Go ahead.

The Deputy Speaker: I would remind you to address your remarks to the Chair and perhaps you'll have less of a response from the—

Mr Stockwell: I apologize to you, Mr Speaker. It really infuriates me when I get heckling from the other side of the floor about such a despicable act as this. This underhanded backroom deal that you cut with the socialist elite on the island when people are dying for places to live, looking for accommodation, you could cut a deal like that with the socialist elite on the island for a buck a day, a buck a day for 100 years, and they say this is equitable and they say this is fair.

The people who called my office today after seeing the debate yesterday on television didn't think it was fair, didn't think it was equitable, didn't think it was reasonable. They thought it was a ripoff. They also thought that if they were going to spend this kind of money, they should spend it on those in need.

When I told them those people that were on the island included lawyers and doctors and teachers and professors and consultants and businessmen and psychologists, they were absolutely overwhelmed. Absolutely overwhelmed. This is at the very crunch of the issue. This is at the very basic underpinnings of the issue.

I am astounded, absolutely astounded, that these people would have the gall to heckle. I would be so embarrassed, absolutely embarrassed, if I were them that this was the deal that they cut when they claim at the same time to have a social conscience, looking out for those in need, when they've just given away 250 homes for 100 years for a buck a day.

The other fact that must be mentioned is that the same people that are on this island, the same people that are on this island that they just gave away these homes to, haven't paid rent since 1981. They haven't even paid their way since 1981. They've lived there for free and you've rewarded them for being squatters, for living there for free, with an agreement for 100 years at a buck a day.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Don't be so disrespectful to the islanders, please.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, there are islanders who have been there from the beginning that I have respect for,

but they're very few and far between. Most of those people since 1953, when this reared its head, have long since left. Most of the people who were there in the 1960s have left. Most of the people who were there in the 1970s have left.

This is a whole new breed of squatters who moved in when the opportunity provided itself and they've won the lottery at the expense of the taxpayers in the province of Ontario. That lottery says, when this minister announced his decision, that you could have this house on this property at great expense to the municipal taxpayer with fully serviced schools and policing and ferry and fire service for \$30,000 for 100 years.

This is called the fair and equitable social conscience of our new socialist government. This is Bob Rae's Ontario. Don't worry about the single mothers. Don't worry about the families. I tell you that the difference between my province and the province you're running is that I wouldn't give lawyers, doctors, councillors, principals, professors, civil servants, therapists and businessmen a home on the island for a buck a day for 100 years.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Yorkview, order please.

1530

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I ignore them. I truly ignore what they have to say. I'd like the member for Yorkview to go back to his constituents and explain this deal to them. I understand the member for Fort York. These are his constituents, and he just got them in to win the lottery. I want you to go back to your constituents and explain this deal to them. How come they can't have this kind of housing for a buck a day for 100 years? Why don't you answer that to them? Why can't we give it to the single mothers who are looking for space? Why can't we give it to the senior citizens who need assistance? Why can't we give it to the unemployed or those on welfare? Why don't they deserve the opportunity? Why don't they get the opportunity to live on the island for a buck a day for the rest of their lives and sign a lease for 100 years?

You know, they don't want to debate the issue—typical socialists. They want to talk about some federal program or they want to blame somebody else, but they don't want to talk about the issue of the day. And the issue of the day is an agreement you made with the islanders that is one of the most warped and dishonest agreements that has come down from this provincial Legislature that has benefited few at the expense of many. That's what this legislation does. It takes away parkland from three million citizens so you can pacify 650 vocal socialists on the island. That's what this issue does.

Don't talk to me about other governments. Don't talk to me about other programs. Talk to me about your legislation and the way you've benefited these 650 people like no one's been benefited before. Tell me about it. Tell me about the explanation as to why. Explain to me how these people got picked, these doctors, lawyers, and all those people who got picked to have this excellent treatment. Tell me how come it just so happens that on that special

day, when some of them had only been there for months, they got to win the lottery and stay there?

Why are they allowed to transfer? Why are they allowed to sublet the houses? If they really wanted to live on the island, why do they need to sublet? Why? Because they want to live there, shouldn't they live there? Now they sublet and move off. Why do some of the people on the island treat it like a cottage? They don't even live there year-round. They treat it like a cottage.

This government today is allowing doctors and lawyers to have a cottage on the Toronto Islands subsidized by the taxpayers for a buck a day for 100 years, and they say that's fair and equitable. With all the people who are homeless, with everyone who needs a place to live, with single mothers, seniors and people on welfare, do you think it's reasonable to give a cottage to a doctor on an island for a buck a day for 100 years? That's a reasonable, socially motivating decision? I think not.

I don't think they even investigated this. I think they got this from Mr Johnston. Most of them didn't know the issue, and they just bought into this. They just said to themselves, "Oh, this must be a good idea."

Mr White: Eighty cents American.

Mr Stockwell: Eighty cents American, a buck a day Canadian, and they just bought into this. They just said, "Oh well, it must be a good idea." You didn't even think about who you mandated to do this study. You mandated Richard Johnston, an ex-member of this House, who was always in favour of the islanders staying, who was never respected—

Mr Mills: He was respected by everybody.

Mr Stockwell: —never, ever respected by the Metropolitan Toronto council, which owned that land; never, ever respected in his position on the Toronto Island. Don't pretend he was, because he was never respected for his position on this issue.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): You don't get a political hack to solve this problem.

Mr Stockwell: And this was a political hack, exactly. They brought in a political hack and gave him a very defined mandate, because he wanted them to stay for as little as possible, and told him to bring in an unbiased third-party report. What a joke. An unbiased, third-party report from the man who is on the record as a member of this government when in opposition as opposing any park-like setting for the Toronto islanders? This was supposed to be a reasonable approach to resolving this issue.

They suggested that Mr Johnston solve this problem in 60 days. Well, of course he solved it in 60 days. He gave the farm away. I could solve every problem in 20 days if I gave the farm away. That's no solution. That's a public ripoff. That's robbery without a gun. Of course he solved the problem in 60 days. Who couldn't? He gave these people houses in a park on the island with ferry, police, fire and school service for a buck a day for 100 years. You'd have to have rocks in your head to turn this down. Of course he solved it. Who couldn't solve it when you were going to give them this kind of deal?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I notice they're not here today.

Mr Mills: They're disgusted.

Mr Stockwell: Do you know what? You're embarrassed. You're absolutely embarrassed about this. You should be embarrassed about this. Your cabinet should be embarrassed and your backbenchers should be embarrassed that this is the kind of deal you did. This does not smack of the socialism and the fairness I heard NDP governments speak about. This smacks of exclusivity, this smacks of deal-making, this smacks of preferential treatment, this smacks of nothing but a government that is paying off a group of people that it felt it owed a debt to. That is what this smacks of.

The other part about this is that these are not needy people. These are not people who are in need. These are doctors and lawyers and so on. To really add insult to this whole debate, for goodness' sake, at one point in time during this island issue the leader of the New Democratic Party lived on the island. He lived there. He was your leader. He wasn't short of money. He didn't need a special place. He didn't need to be subsidized. For goodness' sake, he lived on the island, the leader of your party, and you're telling me people like him deserve a subsidy at the expense of the taxpayers for a buck a day for 100 years. Go sell that to your constituents.

It's a sham. They're not here. I'll tell you why they're not here: They're embarrassed. And you should be embarrassed.

This really bothers me. Of all the decisions you've done, this really bothers me, because I had people phoning me who have told me that the Toronto Islands should be park for everyone to use, for all three million constituents to use. Nobody should be able to have an exclusive right to live on that island, to use that island as his home. No one should ever be allowed to use a park as his home at the expense of millions and millions of constituents.

They said those people shouldn't be there. They never were supposed to be there. In 1953 they were being evicted by Metro, and most of those people left. All these people we're talking about today came later, and in some cases as recently as a year ago.

Mr Mills: He's full of it.

Mr Tilson: Come on, Gord.

Mr Stockwell: The member for Durham East—

The Deputy Speaker: I would ask you, please, to address your remarks to the Chair. This is the third time I've asked you this.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, Mr Mills, the member for Durham East, suggests I'm full of it. It's really frustrating when something is as blatant as this ripoff. You tell the members opposite—and you, Mr Speaker—what these people do for a living, you tell them their professions—you could probably give them their income levels—and you tell them what a 100-year lease at \$30,000 breaks out to per month—\$30 a month. You tell them they're in the middle of a park, you tell them about all the services the taxpayers will have to supply, you tell them it will cost \$1 a day for them to live in this place, you tell them about all

the people looking for housing in this city, and all you get back is, "You're full of it."

Clearly, this is not a chamber for debate, this is not a chamber for information, this is not a chamber to tell you or ask you to reconsider, considering the information that's brought forward. This is a place where you come in close-minded, regardless of the deal that's been cut, and tell other members they're full of it when the facts are staring you right in the face.

1540

Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West): What's frustrating is such blatant falsehoods.

Mr Stockwell: Blatant falsehoods? I challenge the member for Scarborough West. I'll go to Scarborough West, okay? We'll have a public debate about this in Scarborough West. I'll bring in my assessment rolls, I'll bring in the job rolls and I'll bring in the financing packages, and we'll go to Scarborough West and we'll have a debate in your riding. What I'd like to know is whether the people in Scarborough West, whose Metro councillors, I might add, voted en masse to make this a park, really believe that by giving doctors and lawyers and city councillors and teachers and principals and university professors and civil servants rent in a park on an island for a buck a day for 100 years is a good use of taxpayers' money. I'll be happy to.

Ms Swarbrick: And I guarantee you when I present the truth I'll have support.

Mr Stockwell: We'll see about the truth. I've been debating this issue for about 10 years now. I got the assessment rolls as they moved along. I got the assessment rolls year after year. I know who's moved in. I know who's moved out. I know how long these people have lived there. I have all that information. I also know what they're doing. They've applied and come before committees and told us what they do for a living. I've seen that. I have the building permits as to what improvements they've made in the homes because I sat on council when they needed our approval. I'll be happy to. I think this would be a really interesting debate.

I think it would be really intelligent for us to go out there and talk to the people directly and tell them exactly what benefits these people are getting, and then we'll let them decide. We'll let the public in Metropolitan Toronto which is going to have to pay the bill for these islands decide whether they think it's a good deal. You know what, Mr Speaker? These people are going to think it's such a good deal, they'll want the same deal. They'll want to move on to the islands. They will take this—

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): What does your leader think?

Mr Stockwell: My leader doesn't support this. God. Mr Speaker, I think they've been in government about two years too long.

It's hard to believe, but that is a really encouraging thought. It's a really exciting thought that I will be allowed to go to Scarborough West and debate this issue with the member. I'm really excited about that because I think that'll be a really interesting debate. I think what you'll find is, most people don't know about this deal, and when

they find out about the deal, they stare at you in shock. They don't believe you. They don't believe that someone get a 100-year lease for 30 bucks a month, a buck a day. They don't believe you.

Ms Swarbrick: And so they shouldn't.

Mr Stockwell: Let's hear from the member across. Unless I read the bill incorrectly, unless Mr Cooke announced it incorrectly, it's \$30,000. As far as I know, it's \$30,000. As far as I know, the top price is \$40,000.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): It's \$36,000.

Mr Stockwell: Thirty-six thousand. That breaks down to about 30 bucks a month, or a buck a day.

Hon Mr Pouliot: That's a lot of money where I live.

Mr Stockwell: It's a lot of money where you live. Thirty thousand dollars is a lot of money where I live, except that \$30,000 is an investment to get you a place to live for 100 years. They'd call that a thief in Metropolitan Toronto. If you can get a place to live for \$30,000 for 100 years, you've just fleeced somebody. That's a steal. You've just ripped them off.

Mr Tilson: That's better than rent control.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Stockwell: The member suggests that's a lot of money where he lives, but I would even suggest that where he lives, in Manitouwadge, if you got a house to live in for 100 years for \$30,000, I'm certain there are some residents who would jump on that deal as well.

Ms Swarbrick: What about the fact that they already own the homes?

Mr Stockwell: They don't own—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr Stockwell: Will you stop the clock, Mr Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker: No, I won't stop the clock. The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: I just heard from the member for Scarborough West that they own the homes. They don't own the homes. Every court in the land has said they don't own the homes. That's how much you know about this issue. Every court in the land has said it's Metro land. They can do what they want with it. There's no ownership. There's no ownership of the homes. That's the issue at issue here. That's why they spent 20 years in the courts fighting about this, because Metro Toronto said it owned the lands and therefore, if it owns the lands, it has the right to remove the homes. That was approved by every court, every level.

Shake your head all you want, but you can go check the minutes in Metropolitan Toronto council. Those are the decisions that were rendered by courts.

Clearly we have a disagreement here, and I'm going to be happy to go to Scarborough West to air it out. I think it'll be exciting. I think it'll be exciting for the member to find out exactly how her constituents feel about this issue and I think it'll be exciting for the constituents to find out just how out of touch the member for Scarborough West is

with the real world and the real difficulty of finding a place to live for 30 bucks a month for 100 years.

This sickens me. I'll go on the record: This sickens me. It sickens me that a deal can be cut like this in the back room at the expense of the taxpayers and a 100-year lease can be given to people who are professionals and they can have it for a buck a day for 100 years.

I wash my hands. There's no getting through. Let this be on your heads. When people come looking for housing from you in your constituency office, you refer them to the island and tell them, "If you're lucky, you might get a house for a buck a day for 100 years."

The Deputy Speaker: Now is the period of questions and comments; now is the time to air your opinions. Are there any questions or any comments? The member for Durham East.

Mr Mills: I just want to advise my friend opposite, the member for Etobicoke West, that I don't intend to address all the things he has said in this two-minute allocation. However, I do intend to have a lot to say in my wrapup period.

Just to get him thinking, I'd like to refer to the fact that in the last election Mr Harris said: "I'm pleased that you have reached a satisfactory agreement with the city of Toronto. The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party"—and I believe the member for Etobicoke West is a member—"has always supported the concept of an island community and I can assure you that we will introduce enabling legislation to put this agreement into place." That's that party over there, and that's the member of the Progressive Conservative Party who said not 10 seconds ago that it's not the position of the leader of the Conservative Party. I say to you, can you believe anything he says?

Mr Elston: I think it's interesting to listen to my friend from Etobicoke West; he is very entertaining. But in this particular presentation he has cut right to the very substance of the issue. It's not that there are people who are concerned that everybody should be removed and that the communities on the island be totally displaced, although my friend from Etobicoke West might be able to extend his remarks to that extent; it is in fact that there should be, if there is to be any understanding of fairness in this world, when it is difficult in downtown Toronto, let alone on the islands, to find a reasonable price for housing anywhere approaching \$30 a month—surely the issue here is not whether the community survives, it's not whether in fact there should be rent paid, but the level at which this rent is paid does cause a whole series of problems for people who have other issues pressing them.

I agree with the member for Etobicoke West when he says it is difficult to understand how people who are well employed and well paid would be allowed to receive a benefit of this order from the public purse when in fact there are people who are without jobs, who are without access to housing even of a decent level and who are paying substantially more per month as a result of their inability to access housing at any other level.

It is difficult to understand that we would want to allow people to pay this little rent per month when the coffers of

the province are eroding daily with a loss of revenues inspired by a recession that is cutting every person in this province in terms of their substantial—

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): Why didn't you guys take care of that when you had the time?

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, if I can have just a couple more minutes to finish up, or seconds to finish up. They have lost their attempt—

The Deputy Speaker: Your time is over.

Mr Elston: —to feel that the economy is going to provide them with a way to make a living for their families. Why are you giving away so much?

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your seat. The member for Dufferin-Peel.

Mr Tilson: I think we all owe—we should all be thankful that the member from Etobicoke has made the presentation he has. The member from Etobicoke of course has described very accurately the history that has gone forward on this from the beginning. I must say, on the issue of \$1 a day, I don't think the members on the government side ever dreamed that this unfair issue had surfaced until today. Just watching their faces, I think the shock that it exists—particularly with all the unemployment that exists in this province and that people are looking for housing. The Minister of Housing is jumping up daily talking about the cooperative housing issue in this province, how she intends to increase the non-profit housing in this province, all of which is costing the taxpayer unbelievable amounts of money.

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This whole venture—members over here are talking about we're going to bulldoze the houses down. What this bill is going to do, of course—they're going to expand it. They're going to build more cooperative housing, non-profit housing, on this island, on a park. There are jurisdictions all across this world that fight like hell to keep their parks. There is a park in the middle of the city of New York and the fights that went on to preserve that park, and here we are destroying our own beautiful park.

Now they say it's a Metro issue. This is a provincial issue, because all of us across this province feel we have the right to go to the city of Toronto and share in the parklike setting that exists on that island. When I see it being destroyed by this province, by this government; when I see it being destroyed, and the expansion—of all the places, why would you put a cooperative, non-profit housing venture on the Toronto Islands? What a stupid, stupid thing to do.

Ms Swarbrick: The issue of the \$36,000 to \$46,000 that people will pay for their homes on the island can't possibly be compared to the cost of any other housing; it's a totally different issue. The \$36,000 to \$46,000 is in addition to the homes they already own. The homes are clearly, uncontestedly owned by them already. That was stated very clearly by David Peterson; it was stated very clearly by Michael Harris in the last election; it was stated very clearly by the candidates for both the Liberals and the Conservatives in the last election. Nobody denies that,

with the exception of the fact that a past government—and I believe it was the Conservatives—put into place a rule, a loophole, that allowed the courts to end up making the decision that they didn't own the land, which effectively meant that the land was stolen from them by a legal loophole and that corrective action needed to be taken, as stated by the leaders of both your present party and the Conservatives, and David Peterson as the past Premier.

The issue of taxes which has been referred to: It's been alleged that they haven't paid their taxes. The people on the Toronto Islands have constantly paid their taxes like any other responsible Metro residents.

The issue of community services: They don't get the same community services the rest of Metro residents do in spite of the fact that they pay their taxes. They built their own community centre with money they raised entirely by themselves. They provide a stewardship to our parklands on the islands. They only live on 5% of the islands; that leaves plenty of parkland for the rest of us. The stewardship they provide there has been everything up to and including saving lives of park enthusiasts visiting the island.

The \$36,000 to \$46,000 payment for the lease on the land also can't be compared to anything to do with the normal market price for land, because they have limited equity in that land. Not only is it limited for 99 years; it's also limited in that they can't get the same speculative price for that land when they sell it.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Time's expired. The member for Etobicoke West. You have two minutes.

Mr Stockwell: Perfectly up front from Scarborough West.

(a) They don't own the land. Metro owns the land. Every court in the land said Metro owns the land. Oh, don't shake your head: yes, they did. So take the structures off the land. It's Metro's property.

(b) Your suggestion is that it's not a fair comparison to say for 99 years you can sell it for \$30,000. I challenge this government to go into the open market and say, "These houses are for sale for 99 years." I'll guarantee you that the lowest bid will be a heck of a lot more than \$30,000. They'll sell for six figures plus, if you got to live on the island and you could have that lease for 100 years. Absolutely guaranteed.

As usual, the member for Durham East was absolutely and totally off base in his accusation with respect to us agreeing with you on this piece of legislation. If you read the city of Toronto's recommendations, you would have read (f) and (g), which I luckily happen to have with me: "Annual rent: Payable monthly in advance, to be based on the average of three independent evaluations of 1987, updated by the commissioner of city property. These annual payments will increase at the rate of inflation, as per the CPI."

That's what the city of Toronto said. They said they were going to charge them market rates and increase it every year to CPI. What have you said? You've sold them the \$30,000 for 100 years.

Mr Mills: What did Harris say? What does your leader say?

Mr Stockwell: Don't tell me we support this. My leader said that he supported the city of Toronto's recommendation. Now I may finish.

Also included in the city of Toronto's recommendation is that "back rent or occupation charges from 1981 for those not now living on the island be pursued by the city solicitor from those who occupied houses from 1981 on."

If this is the recommendation you brought forth you might get some support, but I'm not supporting anything that lets doctors and lawyers live in a house on an island for a buck a day for 100 years.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): As the member of this Legislature representing the Toronto Islands community, I'm pleased to speak in support of Bill 61. I hope you will see, through me, a voice of reason, fairness, justice and common sense.

I was going to recognize the presence of the island residents who were here with us for the last two days in the members' gallery, but I think Mr Stockwell and other members of the opposition must have frightened them away. I hope they will recover and come back soon to hear the debate. But none the less, I would like to commend them for their patience and perseverance as we work to secure a stable, viable future for this community.

I was going to recognize the presence of Luis Schoenborn, who was here for the last two days, and I hope people will have an opportunity to see her, who is a senior and who has lived on the island since 1951.

Yesterday and today, the member for Etobicoke West insulted her and the members of the community by calling them socialist squatters. I'm convinced that many of them would resent the terminology as being socialists that was attached to them and particularly reject being called squatters.

The member for Etobicoke, in my view, and some other members I've heard today demean themselves and insult the intelligence of the electorate, particularly Mr Stockwell with his simple-minded, simplistic, repetitive, reductionist argument that we were bought off by winning two polls. It's insulting.

Ms Schoenborn lived on the island long before the member was a Metro councillor. In fact, she lived there before Metro even existed as a government. Like all of us, she paid for her home and has lived in it ever since. The island community originated, like any other neighbourhood in the city, based on the purchase of lots created by the city for dwellings.

So the community has a historical precedence dating back to 1867. What I accept is a history here of a community that's been there for a long time, which the Tories and the Liberals clearly reject. To the city government, to the citizens of Toronto and to the islanders, the island was a community as well as a park.

The member for Etobicoke West represents the dying embers of the hostility towards this community, which was to be embodied by the newly created Metro government

from the 1950s onward. Metro's policy was to create a park. They decided to destroy this community, with its long history, to implement this policy. They could have chosen Rosedale. They could have chosen the member's own neighbourhood in Etobicoke, but instead they chose the isolated island community. Metro chose not to listen to the findings of the province's Swadron commission appointed by the Tories in the early 1980s, where a broad spectrum of citizens overwhelmingly supported the retention of the island community.

Swadron even suggested the expansion of the community. By 1980, Metro had bulldozed over 600 island homes, including hotels and stores. The community was erased from Hanlan's Point and Centre Island. It was clear that Metro would not listen to anyone except its own parks commissioner.

It was ironic that soon after Metro destroyed the community on Centre Island, after its parks commissioner repeatedly chanted, "There shall be no structure in a public park," Metro authorized the construction of the Centreville Amusement Park, which created an artificial village on Centre Island.

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Metro's policy was never to remove the islanders through attrition, as the member opposite from Etobicoke has indicated on a number of occasions. He should know better. He was a Metro councillor, and I believe he still is a Metro councillor disguised as an MPP.

In 1980, Metro sent the sheriff to the island to evict the remaining residents on Ward's and Algonquin islands. This is hardly attrition. Residents told the sheriff when he arrived: "We have 700 people, 200 children with no place to go. We're getting no compensation. We're in a desperate situation. We're simply asking you to wait 24 hours."

Ironically, at the same time, Metro was in the process of approving new 25-year leases for three private island yacht clubs.

This is where the Tory government steps in. Together with the islanders, Conservative MPP Larry Grossman, who represented the riding at the time, requested the province to help. Anyone with a sense of electoral history should know that the island community has supported all three political parties at different times in its history.

Even when the Conservative government in 1981 passed Bill 191 to preserve the island community, Metro continued on its path.

The member for Etobicoke West claims that islanders have refused to pay land rent to Metro since 1981. Having been a Metro councillor himself, he should know that islanders came to Metro with their chequebooks to offer payment, but Metro refused. Islanders never received a bill from Metro on land rents, because Metro knew that receiving payment would be an acknowledgement of the community's legitimacy.

How can you pay a bill you have never received? How can you make a payment of rent when the landlord won't take it from you? It's no surprise that there is bad blood between Metro and the island community. But I think it's time we moved on.

I believe that Bill 61 will help secure the island community once and for all after nearly 40 years of senseless assault on its residents by Metro Toronto.

This legislation is not about protecting the property rights of a few individuals, as some would like us to believe. It's about preserving the community itself. As the Toronto Island Residents Association said back in 1980, when the Davis government was urged to intervene in the Metro island dispute, "The province seems to have missed the point that it's the community that we are trying to preserve, not our own individual rights to live here." Bill 61 responds well to this sentiment. It secures the community and does so in a way that protects the public interest.

Like all communities, the island residential community is worth preserving. The question is, how do ensure that we do not replace the existing community with a fundamentally different kind of community?

Bill 61 ensures that the transition to long-term security for the community goes hand in hand with compensation to the city and Metro for their costs, that community land remain in public ownership, that no windfall profits will be reaped from the sale of the island homes, and that a long-term plan for the management of community lands and the creation of new affordable housing will be developed using an innovative community land trust model.

This legislation affects only the residential portion of the island, and that is only 5% of the whole island. The rest will remain, as always, traditional parkland. I might add that if Metro were really serious about making island parklands accessible to people, it would have expanded its use beyond the summer months. If Metro is so desperate for parkland, why is the island park only used intensely for eight weeks of the summer? Metro has never built one skating hut or sold one cup of hot chocolate at the island park during the winter. Hundreds of acres of parkland sit idle over there.

Metro has never understood that parks and communities and a high level of activity can coexist. Instead, I think the Tories and possibly the Liberals want a cemetery.

Under Bill 61, the public spaces within the island residential community will be open to the public. The community land trust will ensure that public spaces within its boundaries will remain for the continued enjoyment of all.

Mr Tilson: What do you mean? You're expanding it.

Mr Marchese: Exactly.

The land trust model allows communities to take on some responsibilities traditionally associated with governments, such as the provision of community services, as an example. In this way, land trusts can help reduce the stress on overburdened governments by providing their own services. So islanders, far from being socialist squatters, as some have portrayed them, will take on the job of property manager for their community under Bill 61. This is a big job.

But those who persist in calling islanders "squatters" say: "Look at the house prices under Bill 61. It's a give-away." Both the Liberals and the Tories are saying this.

The fundamental consideration here is that Bill 61 places the island community in the non-profit housing

sector. It won't be Rosedale, nor should it be. We are creating affordable housing, not market housing.

Like all non-profit communities, there will be limits placed on the rights of residency, and as I've just pointed out, islanders will be responsible for ensuring the provision of open spaces, which will be accessible to all.

They will also carry the costs of providing certain community services, such as the operation of their community centres. Taxpayers on the mainland receive these services as a matter of course through the taxes they pay, and in addition they receive accessible health services, public transit and other public services. Islanders, however, live far from these services we all take for granted. Yet they pay taxes for these services just like the rest of us.

Somehow the term "socialist squatters" just doesn't seem to apply.

To a reasonable person, it would seem fair that island leases should be priced in a way that reflects the additional burden of residents associated with the land trust. And remember, the lease price applies only to the land the islanders live on, not the homes that they built themselves, paid for themselves and maintained themselves.

This is clearly a form of limited ownership within a non-profit framework, and it's crucial that we understand this if we are to understand Bill 61.

The cost of this housing will be capped to remain affordable. Its value will be based on a depreciation formula. Every time ownership is transferred, money will go back to the province. When islanders purchase their 99-year ground leases at \$36,000 and \$45,000 on Ward's and Algonquin islands, respectively, this money will be used to compensate the city of Toronto for island rents that the city paid to Metro, approximately \$12 million, on behalf of islanders during the 1980s.

It's important to realize that Metro has never gone without. It has been the city that has been compensating Metro all these years, because the city supports and supported the retention of the community.

These moneys will also go towards paying the ferry deficit. Even though the island community is not the only user of the ferry services, islanders will pay down its deficit.

Other than the ferry and a firehall, there are few municipal services on the island. The community centres were built, paid for and maintained by the residents themselves. While this is a sign of self-sufficiency and resilience on the part of the community, the member for Etobicoke West will acknowledge that it would be unfair for me to argue that he should exclusively bear the cost for the bus line that stops at his front door. It just goes against the principle of how we fund municipal services. If the member pays his property taxes, he knows he will receive services.

The islanders have always paid their property taxes and their income taxes, but where are the services? They're on the mainland. To get those services, islanders, like all ferry users, pay to board the ferry. They also pay property taxes to support this service, and on top of this, they will be paying for the ferry deficit through the purchase of their ground leases.

The critics of Bill 61 say the 99-year ground lease is too long. They seem to believe that we should only create affordable communities for a limited period of time. Either we want long-term affordable housing or we don't. I personally applaud the 99-year lease because it ensures that island housing will remain in the non-profit housing sector. This will help maintain the stock of affordable housing in this province.

The community land trust model fits well with the demographics of the existing community.

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Those who subscribe to the socialist squatters theory will be interested to know—if some of the other members haven't heard this—that 20% of the island households are low income versus 13% Metro wide; 16% of the households are single-parent led versus 12% Metro wide; 20% of households are home to retirees; 65% of residents have lived on the island for 15 years or more and 22% have lived there more than 35 years.

These are important statistics that we should remember, because it speaks to a community that I'm sure is very similar to Etobicoke and many other places. The transition to security under Bill 61 will enhance the community and will give it new life.

As the member for Fort York who represents this community—as with my Liberal predecessor Bob Wong and his Conservative predecessor Larry Grossman—I believe that in resolving the island dispute we must ensure that we not only save island homes but that we preserve the social mix of the island community.

The member for Etobicoke West, particularly, opposes this notion. He says the few wealthy islanders should be subject to a means test. I'm hearing others from the opposite side say that too. Perhaps his party has been out of power so long he's forgotten the principles upon which the Ontario governments fund non-profit housing. Co-op housing and other forms of non-profit housing help to maintain a mix of income levels in communities.

Does the member for Etobicoke West and other members of the Liberal Party advocate a return to public housing ghettos where only the poorest of the poor may live?

Bill 61 will ensure a good social mix on the island. It will help support the community in its efforts to remain a model community, one that is safe, healthy, clean and vibrant.

I'd like to quote urbanologist Jane Jacobs when she said about the island community: "It shouldn't be destroyed, because it's lovable. It's unique. It's a lovely thing. It's wicked to destroy lovable, unique and lovely things. When people defend a place the way islanders are defending their community, that's the greatest argument of all. It says: It's worth saving."

I'm proud that this government, unlike its predecessors, has answered this call with concrete action.

I know that my colleagues across the floor will remember, despite their unsavoury comments about Bill 61, that their party leaders gave their support during the 1990 provincial election campaign to a resolution of the island dispute based on the community position adopted by the Toronto Island Residents Association in August of that year.

It's on the basis of these same principles that this government introduced Bill 61. The NDP has followed up on its commitment to resolve this matter. The opposition, however, seems to be dragging its feet, especially in light of its campaign promises.

Let me just refresh their memories, if they will pay attention for a moment, by quoting letters written by the leaders of the opposition parties to the Toronto Island Residents Association in the summer of 1990. Mr Elston should hear this, but he's not paying attention. Mr Elston? He's not hearing it.

David Peterson wrote in a September 3, 1990, letter on this subject:

"I would like to confirm my government's commitment to the long-term preservation of the Toronto Island community. The Liberal government's position on this issue has consistently been that we will bring forward the necessary legislation to enshrine homeownership in the hands of those with proper documentation.

"I view the continued viability and stability of the Toronto Island community as an extension of my government's commitment to the provision and maintenance of affordable housing throughout Ontario.

"The Liberal government remains committed to implementing appropriate legislation at the earliest opportunity."

That was Mr Peterson.

Given this enthusiastic support for the preservation of the island community by the Liberals during the 1990 election campaign, I'm surprised—not entirely, but surprised—at the concerns being expressed yesterday by my friend the member for Ottawa East. It seems he has abandoned his party's commitment to resolving this issue in the manner described by his former leader. Perhaps it's because of his government's inability to follow its promises with action that it went down to defeat just a few days after this letter was written.

The then member for Fort York, Liberal Bob Wong, also wrote to the committee, on August 29, 1990, saying: "I am prepared to present the principles outlined in your community position, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. As your MPP, I feel that these principles are something I can support." Mr Bob Wong. I ask the speakers of the opposition, where is your commitment to these principles today?

But the doublespeak does not end with the Liberal Party; it continues with the Progressive Conservative Party. Leader Mike Harris has written to the community supporting the principles of the community position, the same principles which are contained in Bill 61. Mr Harris wrote:

"I was pleased that you have reached a satisfactory agreement with the city of Toronto. The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has always supported the concept of an island community, and I can assure you that we will introduce legislation to put this agreement into place."

Mr Harris was supported and seconded by the 1990 Progressive Conservative candidate for Fort York, John Pepall, who said, and I quote him as well:

"I believe the basic principles of the community position can be the basis of a final resolution of the long-standing

island homes dispute. I shall work with you to see that legislation is passed early in the first session of the Legislature to implement it."

Bill 61 represents the kind of resolution to this long-standing issue that both other parties have been asking for for quite a while. But where's their support today? Where is their commitment today? They have abandoned their commitment to community preservation in this specific instance and in the larger sense of the word as well. Instead the community they spoke so favourably of has now become an NDP enclave not worthy of their support.

This is the side of their message I fear, and which all Ontarians should fear. The message I'm hearing is this: Communities are not worthy of preservation based on their own intrinsic worth; they're not worthy of preservation when affected stakeholders like the city and Metro are fairly compensated; they are not worthy of preservation when the provincial interest is protected; and they are not worthy of preservation despite the commitment of Liberal and Tory leaders to do so. Based on the comments I've heard from the opposition, under their leadership, communities in Ontario should not expect protection.

Let me be clear: This is not the intent of this government. We are committed to resolving this issue once and for all. We are committed to working in full partnership with the stakeholders, especially the island community itself, in implementing a fair resolution. Bill 61 represents the commitment of this government to do this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Municipal Affairs for his vision and leadership in seeking to implement this bill and I would like to recognize Mr Richard Johnston for developing the framework of this legislation in his capacity as special adviser to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Most of all, I would like to thank the island community itself for continuing to uphold the principles of community during these last difficult 40 years.

I would like to quote the former Toronto mayor, John Sewell, whose sentiments spoken during the darkest days of the island dispute in 1980 still ring true today as we move second reading of this historic bill. He said:

"The Toronto Island community is here to stay.

"This is a fight that we're all in. It's not just people who live on the islands. It's not just people who live downtown. It's not just people who live in the city of Toronto. It's everyone in Metro.

"It's a fight we all have to pay attention to because we know that you can't go around destroying communities" in the way the Tories would like. "If they destroy this one, they'll destroy others—they may destroy yours."

I'm pleased to support Bill 61 and look forward to continuing to work towards its full implementation in the near future.

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The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): As you know, I don't represent a constituency within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto and I frankly don't care how

people on the island vote. My view is that those people should receive just but not preferential treatment.

There are people in my constituency who cannot find housing. There are people in my riding who cannot find non-profit housing. There are people in my constituency who are associated with projects that are being put forward for non-profit housing and that sit on the shelf. The member is defending a massive giveaway to a protected, preferential few who will be housed at \$30 a month. The rest of the cost of their housing will be subsidized out of the pockets of people in my area of the province who cannot find affordable housing for themselves.

The member has made a valiant attempt to defend the indefensible, and it simply does not wash for people who come from Halton Centre who cannot find affordable housing and certainly not affordable housing at \$30 a month.

Mr Stockwell: I think the member for Halton Centre said it very well with respect to the issue on the Toronto Islands. I want to address a couple of points the member raised.

The suggestion that Mike Harris supports the deal you cut is a total misrepresentation of the facts. What Mike Harris said is that he supported the city of Toronto negotiated settlement. Let me say this again for your edification: The city of Toronto, if you read the recommendations, recommended that three companies go in there, survey the market value of each house and put a value on it. The median would be selected and applied as rent, upwards in some cases of \$600, \$700 and \$800 a month, and then the CPI inflation rate would be added each and every year afterwards to increase the value of those rents.

The islanders know that's what the city recommended. The islanders know that's what the city adopted. I don't understand why you can confuse the issue so terribly and suggest that we supported this half-baked backroom deal concocted by an ex-member of your party, Mr Johnston, and endorsed by your Municipal Affairs official.

That was never, ever contemplated as the deal. No one ever suggested that they would get the houses for 100 years. Nobody ever suggested they would get them for \$30 a month or a buck a day. Even the islanders think they've won the lottery, I'm certain, because never was this kind of guarantee ever given to them by any other previous government or this opposition party. I want those things to be very clear.

Finally, the position I've consistently taken is never to kick anyone off the island. I never said to bulldoze the homes. I said that as those houses come available, the property will revert back to Metro. I wouldn't kick a single person off the island, but in the end I would create a park and not displace a single person. Suggesting anything else but that is truly misrepresenting my position.

Mr Mammoliti: Hopefully I won't be as stiff as the member for Etobicoke West. I am standing now to congratulate both the islanders and my colleague Rosario Marchese, first of all the islanders for protecting their rights, for showing the guts as a community to fight three different governments in an area they feel was worth fighting for.

Somebody wanted to take their homes away. Somebody wanted to bulldoze them away. Somebody wanted to take those children, those mothers, those fathers away from their homes. They had enough guts to say no. I congratulate the islanders for the guts it took to win the battle and, yes, they won. They convinced a government that they're right, and I'm proud to be a part of a government that has done that.

I congratulate Rosario Marchese for the wonderful work he's done for his constituents. I remember a conversation that took place between myself and a few others in this caucus with Rosario Marchese when we first got elected. We talked about what we wanted to achieve as members and what we wanted for our communities. I can tell you this, I remember that Mr Rosario Marchese did say: "The islander issue is at the top of my list. The islander issue is something I want." Rosario Marchese, good job.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): I have had an opportunity to sit in the Legislature now for some hours yesterday afternoon and for a period of time this afternoon listening to the important debate taking place over this piece of legislation which will allow the islanders to stay in their homes for the next 99 years at \$1 a day rent. To me, that is the issue at hand.

I don't believe anyone in this chamber has said we must send bulldozers over to the island, bulldoze the homes down and kick every man, woman and child out on the street. That has not been the debate which has taken place over the past couple of days and it's unfortunate that the previous speaker puts it in those terms. What we are debating is whether or not the public policy put forward by the socialist government of Ontario is correct in this instance.

They believe it's correct to give an élite group of people special status by allowing them to live in a park setting, in a park location, that was to be used by all of the people of Metropolitan Toronto and all Ontario citizens and visitors to this province. They believe it's fine to allow those people to live in that setting, not for this year, not only for next year, not for the next decade, not for the next 20 years, but for 99 years at \$1 a day.

I know for a fact in southwestern Ontario there have been people who've been asked to move out of provincial parks and have not been given the courtesy of 99-year extensions and have not been given the courtesy of \$1 a day rent. This is élitist and it's wrong.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Fort York, you have two minutes to reply.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Sorbara: I regret that my friend the member for Fort York didn't take the opportunity of using his two minutes to respond to the comments made by, for one, my friend the member for Essex South. I hope to be relatively brief on this topic. I note that in the members' gallery east there are members of the island community. I'm glad they're here listening to the debate.

I think if anything can be said in this debate with absolute surety and confidence, it is that the residents of the island community are going to get what the government of the day, the New Democratic Party government, has promised them by way of Bill 61. Of that there is no doubt. That is the way this place works. The NDP have a majority as a result of the election of September 6, 1990. When they bring a bill into this House, if they determine that they want it to be the case, that bill will pass.

So the only real issue in this debate as we consider Bill 61 in second reading is whether or not this is fair legislation. I think if the island residents and the people watching electronically this debate, and the other members of the House to the extent that they listen to the debate—if they allow themselves and you allow yourselves and you, Mr Speaker, allow yourself to cut through all the rhetoric, that really is the issue. Is this a fair piece of legislation, given the circumstances that we, as a province, find ourselves in in Ontario in 1992?

There's no real debate as to whether or not the Tory party or the Liberal Party or the NDP wants to continue to have an island community. That's not an issue. Each of the three parties, at some time or other, has put its position on the record, made it quite clear that, whereas Metropolitan Toronto believes there ought not to be any island community, the city of Toronto, the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party, all of those organizations and entities, believed that there should be an island community, that there was something unique and special and wonderful and appropriate and enlivening about the fact that on Ward's Island and on Algonquin Island, amid this great, massive metropolitan area, there was a small community of homes which constituted one among many of the neighbourhoods in this city and this metropolitan area and the province.

1630

Hon Mr Pouliot: I bet you can't recognize those prices.

Mr Sorbara: My friend the Minister of Transportation, as usual, makes an irrelevant comment, so I'll just try to ignore the insults.

There's no issue there at all. History shows that we are all in agreement about maintaining the island community. So let not the words of your MPP for the time being or the words of the parliamentary assistant or the words of the member for Yorkview or Downsview or any other member, or particularly the member for Scarborough West, try to convince you there is some dispute there as to whether or not there ought to be an island community.

Personally, and I think I speak on behalf of my caucus as well, we continue to believe that it is a good idea to try to maintain that community. It's a neighbourhood. The only question for debate here is whether or not the proposals to maintain the island community are fair and just ones, given the economic circumstances of the province, for one, and given the economic circumstances of everyone else in the province who is searching for a home or in the process of paying for a home or in the circumstances, more to the point, of actually losing their home.

I try to explain to you how offensive it is for us to be passing this legislation at this time, when so many of our own constituents are suffering the most trying, the most difficult, the most depressing economic circumstances they have ever faced.

Every MPP in this Legislature operates a constituency office, as does your MPP. I know it's not on the island, but it's there somewhere in the constituency. The great thing about a constituency office, other than being able to provide some level of service or other to the people whom you represent in this Parliament, is that it represents a barometer. It represents an ongoing poll of what's happening in the community that you represent. In my case, the riding is called York Centre. It's made up of the town of Richmond Hill and the city of Vaughan.

In the minds of most people in the province, when you think of Richmond Hill and you think of the city of Vaughan, you think of a relatively affluent, hardworking, middle-class community. Both of those municipalities have grown dramatically over the past 10 years. I represent over 200,000 people in this Legislature. It's the largest riding, if you measure by population, in the entire province.

My constituency office is like a barometer, because the people who call there and the people who come to visit there are not just asking for a service; they're often just trying to unburden themselves of their problems. Frankly, over the past two years it has been a depressing experience to regularly go to my constituency office and listen to the problems.

Hardworking people, over and over again—it happens every week—come and plead for help trying to find a job. They come and tell me, "I don't want any of your staff; I have to talk to you privately." They break down and they say: "I'm losing my house. I've put everything I had into it. My wife is working—or was working—my children were helping, and now she's out of work and I'm out of work and I'm losing my house. I spent \$250,000 and I mortgaged myself and I thought I was going to have a job and I thought I could make it." They say, "Mr Sorbara, how can you help me?" And I say I can't help; there's no power that I have to help.

Then you go and you listen to the Catholic school board say: "We are \$29 million in debt. We are theoretically breaking the law because we have a deficit of \$29 million, and we have no idea how to cope. Would you make a plea to the Minister of Education to give us special assistance?" And I say I'll make that plea, but frankly, the Minister of Education isn't listening these days. Then I say, "By the way, the province has a notional deficit of \$10 billion, and by the time the final figures come in it's going to be probably \$12 billion or more, and the province, in comparison to other times, is itself on the verge of bankruptcy."

Then you go to the hospital and its plea is the same. Then you see the empty stores along Yonge Street, then you see the going-out-of-business sales, and as a politician you really understand what the second depression of the 20th century is all about. It's not macroeconomic figures; it's the pain and suffering that are felt in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in every corner of the province.

Then you come to work yesterday, November 17, and the government House leader says, "We want you to debate this bill, Bill 61." You look at the bill and you ask yourself what it's about. Then you realize that this government is trying to solve, like other governments in the past have, the island community issue. The first thing you think is, "Oh, good, we're finally going to put this one to bed," and then you look at the terms of the deal.

Having heard the Treasurer, through days and days of question period and debate, say there is no money for anything any more—there's no money to build schools, there's no money to honour our obligations that we made to municipalities, there's no money for new road construction—the Treasurer says we have to realize that the spending days are over—you read this bill, Bill 61, that's going to solve the island community crisis, and you find that a very small group of people are basically being given a residence. The sum that is being paid is almost a nominal sum. It's like the skill-testing question that you have to answer to get the prize when you enter a contest and you've got the right number. We all know about that: "Prize winners will have to answer a skill-testing question." Island beneficiaries of Bill 61 are going to have to pay a buck a day to live in these houses; \$36,000 and it's theirs.

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It's not that we wish you ill. It's not that we don't want you to continue in your homes. We just say that under the circumstances, this is so out of keeping with the reality that virtually everyone else faces in the province: small retail store owners getting evicted because they can't pay the rent; home owners losing their house because the mortgagee has come in and sold it under power of sale; people getting evicted from apartment buildings because they can't pay the rent. Even those who live in socially assisted housing, in rent-geared-to-income housing, don't have a deal like this. The most unfortunate and the most in need in this province have never received a deal like this.

We ask ourselves as opposition members, is this the time to be making this sweetheart deal with the island community? Surely there's a fairer, more equitable way of resolving this issue.

Mr Marchese: What is it, Greg?

Mr Sorbara: My friend the member for Fort York says, "What is it?" If you were asking me, I would tell you now that the price to maintain those homes would in some measure reflect the fair market value of those residences, independently determined. You might want to modify that, and if there are people living in those homes who need to live in rent-geared-to-income homes, then you would provide perhaps some measure of assistance. But my God, the government is just about to legislate fair market value assessment for Metropolitan Toronto, and I say, what's good for the goose is good for the gander. So my own response, without having studied it, would have been at least a measure of fair market value, because everyone else in the province living through these disgustingly difficult economic times goes to the marketplace and is told that he or she or they have to pay fair market value.

Then I ask myself, how did we get here? This issue, if you look at the history, has gone on since the year this nation created itself, 1867. This goes back to Confederation. In 1867 the city of Toronto acquired the island property. I guess there were communities over there already, and even then it was a lovely place to live, but having acquired it, the city planned to use it, as the history goes, as an island park and began discussing the termination of private residences in 1894—I mean, almost 100 years ago, 98 years ago. Then in 1954 the island property was transferred from the city of Toronto to Metropolitan Toronto. Then really the big battles began to heat up. In 1970 Metropolitan Toronto decided, having acquired the property, that it wanted to use the entire land for parkland and it started to try to terminate leases and demolish residences. Perhaps that was a mistake; perhaps not. I don't think we need to revisit that part of the history. Then a Tory government in 1980 appointed a commission to try to solve the problem and that solution wasn't implemented. Then in 1985, yes, the Liberal government of the day was looking at solutions but never really brought forward any proposals in the form of legislation.

Then another party came to power in 1990. One of the people who didn't run, one of the members at the time of the dissolution of the House in 1990, the former member for Scarborough West, Richard Johnston, a very competent member, now the chair of the Council of Regents, the body that governs community colleges—Richard Johnston didn't run again. His party was elected, and suddenly he was called upon to undertake a task for the new NDP government in power. They asked him to bring forward proposals to solve the island situation, and this work here, this bill we're discussing, emerges from Richard Johnston's solution.

Well, I say to Richard Johnston that it was a nice try, but you've got a critical component wrong. You're giving over to the island residents one of the greatest gifts anyone can give anyone else: a roof over your head, a shelter, a home in perhaps the most quietly beautiful area of the city of Toronto. I mean, this is the place to live, if you ask me. If I were moving to the city of Toronto, it would be my first choice to live on the island, and you're basically giving it away. You're doing it at a time when hundreds of thousands of other people don't have the money to put bread on the table. You are giving these homes away—"A dollar a day, \$36,000, and it's yours."

Frankly, having looked at the deal, I become a little bit suspicious, so I go to the polling results for Fort York and I see that the two provincial polls in the riding of Fort York voted overwhelmingly for my friend Rosario Marchese, the member for Fort York. I mean, these numbers are astonishing.

Mr Mammoliti: It's called representation.

Mr Sorbara: Listen, people can vote however they like. I just wonder out loud whether the government would have been so willing to legislate this marvellous giveaway and couch it in the language of maintaining a community and use statistics about how many people are single with children and how many people are elderly if this riding

had voted predominantly Tory. The figures are rather outstanding.

Poll 153, which is basically Ward's Island, voted, in respect of Rosario Marchese, 137, the Tory got four votes and the Liberal got 15. Those are outstanding numbers, Rosario. You are well liked on the island. In the other poll the results were Marchese 88, the Tory got nine and the Liberal got 12. There was a fourth candidate; he got one vote on the whole island.

I don't want to suggest that these figures impacted in any way whatever on this decision, except that I know how politics work. I know that, had this community been of a different political persuasion, perhaps more affluent than it is, perhaps of a different view than the socialist intelligentsia that now governs this province, perhaps there wouldn't have been such enthusiasm, I'm not saying for maintaining the community, because I repeat: Everyone except Metro Toronto agrees that the community ought to be maintained. It's the particulars of the deal. It's the giveaway. It's the price that's set that so offends.

My friends in the government have, in this matter, made offence a skill. The skill has been to couch what they've done in this glorious and marvellous language of being socially progressive, and I take offence. I take offence at the approach of the member who, in his speech, suggested they were doing something the other parties would have done. That is not the case. Our commitment, as I repeat, was to maintain the communities. I don't ever remember a commitment, on the part of my party when we were in government or the Tories when they were in government, to give these properties away.

1650

I differ with those who say the houses should be bulldozed down. I disagree. I think there's a valid argument there. I know of people who have made it. I know a number of people of good will and good faith who take that view. We do not differ on that. We want these homes to be maintained. We want a community over there.

But I'll tell you, when I see three and four and five people a week who are sometimes on the verge of suicide because life is so bad right now in Ontario—construction workers who two and three years ago worked 100 and 150 hours a week whispering in my ear that they go to food banks now—and I participate today in passing a law that gives homes away in the most exclusive part of the city of Toronto for \$36,000, I take offence. I think it's wrong.

Mr Mammoliti: Where would they be if we kicked them out? Would they be going to the food banks?

Mr Sorbara: My good friend Mr Mammoliti says, where would they be now? If you are going to have a law that gives away homes, then pass a law where everyone in the province has an equal shot at the homes. Look at the law. Listen to the explanatory notes. The law we're going to pass says that the present residents, those who voted overwhelmingly NDP in 1990, as identified in the 1992 assessment rolls, will have ownership transferred to them. I would like the government to pass a law saying that some of my constituents who are on the verge of being evicted under a power of sale will have the government step in.

Okay, just do it for 40 of them or just do it for 50 of them. That's all I ask. We have hundreds of powers of sales in my riding every month. Take 50—I don't care which 50—pay off their mortgage, ask them for \$36,000 and tell them they can keep their homes for ever.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Order, please.

Mr Sorbara: What is good for the city of Toronto and a small, exclusive community ought to be good enough as well for the people of York Centre and the people of Downsview and the people of Yorkview and the people of Scarborough West. It's the way in which this government differentiates between its treatment of some people in Ontario and other people in Ontario that is going to drag this government down, its arbitrariness, its inability to legislate and govern evenhandedly that will destroy it.

We already know about this in my own riding. Your friend the Minister of the Environment, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, has singlehandedly lost you any potential whatever to win a seat in the greater Toronto area in the dump site areas for the next 100 years as long as the islanders are going to keep their homes as a result of this bill.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Sorbara: The thing that so outraged people was Ruth Grier's arbitrary determination to say, "I, Ruth Grier, Minister of the Environment, hereby appoint that York region will be the situs for Metro's garbage." It's that lack of evenhandedness, that lack of fairness, that lack of governing on the principle of equality, that has the people of Ontario just ready and anxious to get back to the polling booth to undo what they did in 1990.

I'll tell you, as my friend the member for Downsview laughs, you just have to go out on the street and you feel it everywhere. They say to me, "How can we get rid of this government?" They say, "How can we get rid of them?" I say, "Look, don't blame me, I voted Liberal." The fact is that it's this lack of evenhandedness, it's the fact that somehow under the previous conflict-of-interest guidelines—

Hon Mr Pouliot: Don't ask me about philosophy on the Liberal—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. We are wasting time under time allocation. Please, government members, there will be time for questions and comments. The member for York Centre.

Mr Sorbara: I wish the viewers at home could hear the cackling coming from the government members as I remind them of why it is they are going to be defeated.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Political vultures. No social conscience.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: The interjections are out of order. Please, the Minister of Transportation. The member for Durham West is not even in his assigned seat; he's

interjecting. Please, let's have some respect and some decorum here.

Mr Sorbara: My final example of lack of equity and fairness and evenhandedness: My friend the member for Oxford is out of the cabinet. Unfortunate, but he's gone, yet the member for Sudbury East—

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): He was never in cabinet.

Mr Sorbara: I'm sorry, the member for Elgin is no longer in the cabinet; an unfortunate series of circumstances. Yet the member for Sudbury East slanders a doctor in public and she's there. It's this lack of evenhandedness. It permeates every single thing they do.

It has the people of Ontario so upset, as I said, that from what I hear, the people can't wait to get to the ballot box. I'll tell my friends quite frankly that I don't see a consensus yet to re-elect the Liberal Party. I don't see a consensus yet to elect the Tory Party again. But there is in the province of Ontario a growing consensus that this government, the NDP government, that unfortunate experiment that we started now over two years ago is seeing its one and only term in Parliament.

I'll conclude my remarks, speaking again, if my friend the member for Etobicoke West can just indulge me for a moment, to the people who are going to be living in these homes on the island under this bill. Forgive us, I guess, if we cannot join with you in this celebration. We are glad that your community is going to be maintained. But given that you have been the beneficiaries of the most special kind of treatment from a government that is ignoring its obligations—

Mr Mills: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Don't the rules of this House require that the member speak directly to the Speaker?

The Acting Speaker: That's not a point of order.

Mr Mills: I take exception to him speaking to the people in the public gallery.

The Acting Speaker: Order. It's not a point of order but it's very, very good procedure. Please address the Chair.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, through you to the people in the gallery and the people watching this debate, this bill will pass. These homes will be transferred into the possession and ownership of the island community. But let us remember, as the government drives this legislation through this Parliament, that there are hundreds and thousands of people in this province who take offence, not because they do not want the island to benefit, sir, but simply because they are not sharing in this benefit.

The Acting Speaker: Now is the time for questions and/or comments.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): When I came to this House I was not particularly aware of this issue and I had sympathy for the islanders. I have found that in fact the islanders predominantly are people who've only lived there for a short period of time. They are very affluent people, by and large. We have architects and we have apparatchiks from the NDP who live on the islands.

The idea that these units, with waterfront, adjoining the largest city in Canada, are going to be made available for \$30 a month, that's \$1 a day, is absolutely obnoxious. In London, England, land leases are not unusual and many times apartments with desirable addresses will trade for hundreds of thousands of pounds with only a 50-year or 60-year land lease left.

These people are being given this gift at a time when we have an awful lot of people who are on welfare, and we have single mothers who cannot get apartments for \$600 a month. The other obnoxious thing about this is that I have heard the heckling from the NDP benches suggesting that we don't care. The Conservatives have always cared. We have always put in place legislation which has protected people. The NDP, on the other hand, are doing so little to help the poor today. They're driving jobs out of the province, but at the same time they are giving affluent people accommodation with water frontage in the most desirable place in Canada for a dollar a day. This is absolutely unacceptable. Indeed, when you consider the tax grabs that are going on in Metro at this time, it's obnoxious that they would be giving this kind of giveaway to their NDP friends.

1700

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Ms Swarbrick: The member for York Centre referred to the great need there is for affordable housing in our communities right now, and certainly the need is no greater than throughout Metro Toronto. I used to be very active in the Affordable Housing Action Group and I'd like to make a couple of points with regard to some of the good points that he did raise on the need for affordable housing.

The first, in terms of the island issue, is that the settlement we're dealing with here takes absolutely nothing away from anybody else. I'd like to also remind people of our point that we've made in terms of the fact that the islanders already own their own homes.

The issue we're dealing with here is the \$36,000 to \$46,000 purchase of the land leases. It's true that those are not equal to the market value for other land that would be comparable. The reason the land is not equal to normal market value is because the conditions under which this land is being purchased are not the same as normal market conditions. The people on the islands cannot sell their property at market value later on either. They have opted for a non-profit, limited equity model to prevent the seniors, the single parents and the working poor who live on the islands from economic eviction.

I'd like to point out that if people are genuinely interested in the plight of the poor and the need for affordable housing in our communities, what we need to look at is the kind of model the community land trust provides, as we're showing on the Toronto Islands through this legislation. This is a model that will create a wonderful precedent. I hope you would join us in urging our government to repeat in other places.

It's something that's become tremendously popular in the United States, where there are now 700 such commu-

nity land trust models in existence. It's something we need to learn from here, to allow people to be able to remove the speculative cost of land from the cost of housing. That's the only way we'll get affordable housing, by removing that speculative cost of land from housing.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Mancini: This debate has nothing to do with land speculation. It has everything to do with paying a fair price for leasing land. I say to the member for Scarborough West, who just finished speaking, I would like you to find out from the Minister of Housing what the average land lease is for land in southwestern Ontario where trailers are allowed to be placed in accordance with zoning practices.

I have at least two or three modular home parks in and around Essex county that I'm familiar with, two in my own riding. These tiny parcels of land are leased to these individuals, most of whom are not in great financial shape, very few of whom have professional jobs, even fewer of whom make more than a medium family income. I know for a fact that these people pay anywhere from \$200 to \$400 a month for the privilege of putting a 20- by 40-foot trailer on a tiny parcel of land. That is what is being charged in small communities.

It could be smaller. It could be 12 by 30; I've seen those too, I say to my colleague across the floor who wants to question the size of the trailer or the cost of the land. Check with your Minister of Housing to see what is being charged these individuals. It's unconscionable that you think that is okay and you don't want to do anything for those people, but you're prepared to give this valuable land at \$1 a day. That's the debate.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Stockwell: The arguments that the government uses to defend its decision are bordering on the hilarious. To suggest for a moment that it's an unusual situation because they own the house and not the land would augur well for some constituent to build a home in High Park and say: "I own the home in High Park. Now you, the government, force the local councils to sell me the land for \$30,000." In essence, that's what the statement is saying. Islanders don't own the land; Metro Toronto owns the land, and they want to create a park. If you're suggesting that they have some movement to do away with that because the ownership of the house is on land not owned, I don't agree.

Secondly, "The affordability argument takes away from no one." What a load of trash. If you gave these people a means test on the island, a goodly number of them would not qualify for subsidized housing, yet they subsidize for \$30 a month for 100 years, or a buck a day. Of course people suffer, people who don't have a place to live and who don't have any money, and the people on the island who have money have a house for a buck a day. Don't tell me no one suffers. Of course they suffer. That's insulting.

Thirdly, the insult from the member for Scarborough West to start comparing this analogy to the land trust fund

in the US is a joke. I challenge the member to show me any land trust fund in the US where they've rented the land to the people for a buck a day for 100 years. It does not exist. It doesn't exist. It's market rent on those land trust funds.

So the analogies are a joke, the legislation's a joke, and your defence is indefensible. If you're going to come forward with some analogies, make sure they're applicable, not the land trust fund in the United States. That's a joke.

The Acting Speaker: The member for York Centre has two minutes in response.

Mr Sorbara: I regret to say that the comments, particularly from the government members, were not really very helpful.

Let's go back to the essence of this deal. The essence of this deal is that, as the legislation says, the present residents on the island, in the island residential community, get a piece of land at well below market value. It's basically a giveaway. A dollar a day is what they're going to pay for the property that they are being given by the people of Ontario—not by us, not by the New Democratic Party, but by the people of Ontario. This bill says that the people of Ontario hereby give to the island residents a home for 100 years at a cost of \$1 day. That's what this bill is all about.

They talk about fairness. I simply say to you, sir, that if you want to be fair, particularly in these economic times, you do one of two things. Either you charge a price that approximates the fair market value—not determined by some former member of Parliament, namely, Richard Johnston, but by independent arbitrators—or you set the price very low, like you've done in this legislation, but say that the people who have a right to buy this land at this price shall be chosen at random from a list compiled of everyone who would like an opportunity to apply.

Either you do it that way or the other way, but this giveaway orchestrated by Richard Johnston and now given the imprimatur by the member for Fort York, whose constituents on the island voted overwhelmingly for him, smacks of something that the people of Ontario say is unfair, unacceptable and indeed intolerable. If I were you, sir, I would be encouraging people to vote against this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Tilson: I don't profess to have the knowledge of some of the Metro members of this Legislature on this subject, having come from Dufferin-Peel. I listened to the member for Etobicoke West, who is obviously quite knowledgeable, and the facts that he has put forward have yet to be challenged by the members of the government.

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I wish to speak on three topics that I think are of most concern to not only the people of Metro but the people of this province: first, the whole subject of the preferential treatment being given to the current residents of the island. Why are they being given preferential treatment as opposed to treating everyone else the same in this province?

Second, there's the environmental aspect. All of us in the past, including the members of this government, have spoken on the preservation of parks, the importance of

preservation of parks, the importance to preserve these areas, to keep development off these areas. It is most contradictory the way this government is proceeding with enlarging the number of residents that are going to live on these areas.

I would correct some of the members of the government who are saying that the members of the Progressive Conservative Party are simply saying, "Take a bulldozer to that." We're not saying that at all. We're simply saying that as these houses become available, it's appropriate to revert to the parklike setting this island is obviously intended for, to be used by the people of Metro; in fact, the residents of the province of Ontario.

Finally, the third topic I wish to speak about is the inappropriateness of putting non-profit housing and co-op housing on an island such as this, as beautiful as this, just as inappropriate as it is to put non-profit housing just a block from here, over on the corner of Wellesley and Bay—most inappropriate. I will be spending some time on that subject.

Dealing with the first item, I must say it is rather strange listening to the facts that have unfolded today and yesterday as to what has happened over the years. I gather this goes back to 1955, and I don't propose to repeat all that. The fact of the matter is that we now have a bill creating a very strange circumstance in this province.

As I understand it, unless contested, the province will transfer the ownership of the existing houses to the present residents as identified by the 1992 assessment rolls, notwithstanding how long they've been there, notwithstanding how long those residents have lived in those houses. It may be last year. It may go back to the 1950s, and I'd believe there are some people there from the 1950s. Again, that's not the area. We're talking about this windfall that has occurred to many of these people.

The fact that Mr Stockwell, the member for Etobicoke West, has put forward is, all it is going to be costing these people is \$1 a day. That fact has not been challenged by the members of the government when you look at the figures being paid over the 100-year period of time.

The other shocking fact revealed to us today and yesterday is that the people who are in there now have never paid rent. They haven't paid rent since 1981—rather an astounding fact. Again, we're looking at the whole subject of unemployment, the problem of housing. The Minister of Housing, whether Mr Cooke or Ms Gigantes, has spent a great deal of time on the whole issue of housing and the need for housing: the need for housing for the poor; the need for housing for the unemployed; the need for housing for the single mother; the need for housing for the abused woman.

All of this is very serious material, all of us agree, but how it's being handled is rather astounding when we read this bill, what these people are benefiting from and the preferential treatment they're receiving. It is, in fact, discriminatory to the remaining people of this province. It's discriminatory.

I also submit it's a breach of trust. You are holding lands in trust for the people of this province and this is what you're doing. It doesn't make any sense. It's unfair,

it's discriminatory and it's a preferred treatment of these people.

I'm not going to get into the political suggestions with Mr Marchese about how he got elected and how he came to this place. Some of it may be fair; some of it may be unfair. But the fact of the matter is, these people are receiving preferential treatment.

As I understand it, a 99-year lease will be offered to these residents, who then may lease the lots at a price of \$36,000 and \$46,000, depending on where they are. Once they have acquired that interest on those lots, they then can do anything they like with it, because that is a windfall to these people. When you start averaging out the figures as to what they're paying over the next 100 years, it's a windfall, no matter how you look at it. It's as simple as that. And what can they do? As I understand it, they could sublease. Why would they ever get rid of it? Why would they ever leave? They can leave it to their heirs. They can bequeath this property.

I gave facts during the Bill 4 debates and the Bill 121 debates of the unfairness that's developed in New York City because of the rent controls that have existed in that city and other cities similar to that, but specifically New York City, where the wealthy have acquired lands and buildings they are renting from landlords, and because of the restrictive rent controls that are being placed on these people, they really have very little rent to pay. They're bequeathing it to their families as they pass away. They're never going to get rid of it. Why would they? It's worth a gold mine.

Why would these people ever get rid of this? It's an unbelievable investment. It would pay them in fact to own another place in the city or outside the city or a condominium on the waterfront and live in these places as cottages. It would pay them to do that. I mean, what a wonderful thing. Instead of travelling up north and spending three or four hours in the awful traffic and the wearing it out, all you have to do is get on a ferry you don't even pay for and ride to your cottage.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and Acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation): What do you mean, you don't pay for it?

Mr Tilson: Well, of course, they're not paying for it. The whole issue of travelling to the north—it's cheaper. Mr Stockwell is perfectly correct when he says you spend \$30 on gas to travel to Huntsville or wherever you're going to travel up north, as opposed to a dollar a day. It's a rather astounding fact of information.

I think the member for Essex South made an interesting observation, and it would be interesting to hear some facts about leasehold interests and what is paid around this province for leasehold interests. I'm told by the member for York Mills, who has had some experience in the real estate business in the past, that places such as Hazelton Lanes, where there are leasehold interests, are valued at \$1 million.

Conceivably on the island—these lots are fairly large lots—they may choose not to keep them as cottages. They may choose to build on to them. They may choose to build

larger homes, permanent homes. They could do any number of things. They could increase the value of these places unbelievably. They've got 99 years to do it, or 100 years. I guess it's 99 years. They've got a long time to do all this, and all of this will increase the value, all at this initial cost of \$36,000 to \$46,000—a rather astounding windfall.

There's no question. I can't believe that any of them would ever sell. They may sublet it, because they can sublet it, and the details haven't been advised by the government as to whether there will be restrictions on whether they can sublet it for whatever amounts. I suspect they could sublet it for rather substantial amounts of money.

This is indeed a windfall to these people, so it is unfair. It's a preferential treatment that I'm surprised at, coming from this government and listening to its philosophy since the New Democratic Party was formed and listening to its philosophy of life. I'm rather shocked, in fact, that this type of bill is coming forward in the way it has.

It'll be interesting to see whether there'll be any challenges to the developing of the non-profit housing. As I understand it, there will be 110 new housing units that will be built on this land, which will be an expansion of the number of people who are going to be using this area. This is an open space, as I understand it. It's a parkland setting. It'll be interesting to see whether anyone demands an environmental assessment. I will be most surprised if someone in Metro doesn't make that request, because it doesn't make sense as to the direction in which they're going.

The whole subject of parking: If I live in the downtown area, what does it cost me to park in this area of downtown Toronto? Certainly a lot more than a dollar a day. I think Mr Stockwell, the member from Etobicoke, made that comparison.

Most unusual, the calculations that have been put forward, the valuation of the \$36,000 to \$46,000.

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I understand that the councillors of Metro have made some comments in the past as to what they're receiving for this; I believe it's \$12 million that it's hoped will be raised by the leasing of these lots, which will go to the city of Toronto as a means of compensating them for the 10 years of investment on these islands. But it'll be very interesting to hear their observations as to whether they have been fairly compensated. This was their land, which is, all of a sudden, going to be owned by the province of Ontario.

The whole use of this property, the ferry service, the schools, it goes on and on as to what's going to be required, all at a very nominal cost for living there.

Keeping the island as a park, I guess that's my real purpose for standing in this House today. Much has been said of the preferential treatment. I think we should look at how we should be fighting. We should be doing our darnedest to preserve areas from development. Parklands are for all of us and yet the parkland concept is withering away on Toronto Islands. It's a most unusual philosophy to take. I don't understand it. I simply don't understand it and it gets to the third issue that I will be talking about, and that is the whole concept of putting non-profit housing.

I have expressed my views in the past on the whole subject of non-profit housing. I think that's an inappropriate

way to solve the housing problems in this province. But even accepting what the government is doing with its philosophy of non-profit housing, why would you choose a park? Why would you choose an island as beautiful as the city of Toronto to put 110 new housing units on, of which 80, as I understand, will be managed by a housing cooperative? What a strange thing to do.

It's like the announcement made by the Minister of Housing a week or so ago: It's going to put a non-profit housing development just a block from here, over on the corner of Bay and Wellesley. What a strange place to put non-profit housing, with children. They seem to be obsessed with this subject; they're going to put non-profit housing anywhere. There's no real plan.

So even accepting your view of non-profit housing, which I do not, the least you could do is to have some plan as to where you're going to put these things and how they're going to affect the overall economy of this province. So I find the environmental rationale very strange indeed.

Of course, Mr Cooke, the minister who introduced Bill 171, stood in his place and said that this legislation is innovative, creative and fair. We've listened to the debate and I think it is not; it is far from that. It is preferential. It is discriminatory. It is not well planned. It is not environmentally sound. Every aspect of it is a mess and I think that the government should reconsider its position on this subject.

You listen to the history of where this has come from since 1955 and it's rather an astounding history. Mr Stockwell, the member for Etobicoke West, has adequately explained that. It really is an amazing history. But notwithstanding all that, we're now in 1992. The government has now introduced Bill 171. It doesn't matter what the Liberals have done or what the Conservatives have done; it's what you're doing. Is it sound? Sure, it's very easy to criticize the Liberals. It may be very easy to criticize what some of the members of the Conservative Party did 20 or 15 years ago or whatever. The question is, is Bill 171—the principles—sound?

As I understand it, the provisions include that the residential communities will remain as public lands, though the province will assume ownership rights instead of Metro Toronto. The residents will have a limited right of ownership of their homes. I'm not sure what that means. I hope the parliamentary assistant will rise in his place and explain that.

The 99-year lease will be offered to residents, who may lease lots at the price of \$36,000 and \$46,000 on Ward's Island and Algonquin Island respectively. I think that is the most contentious of all, that it does give preferential treatment to one group of people in this province. There's no other way of looking at it. I'd love to be able to present that to people in my riding, to give them such a deal. It's a very strange deal.

Residents who cannot afford the lease of their lots may join a new island housing cooperative. We'll talk about cooperatives in a moment and how that whole philosophy of the Minister of Housing has changed the whole theory of cooperative housing. The whole philosophy of coopera-

tive housing has become very preferential. The Minister of Housing has essentially taken over who gets those applications and who doesn't, whether it be non-profit housing or whether it be cooperatives.

I would therefore like to finally speak on the third issue of concern that I have, the fact that 110 new housing units will be built on this location, 80 of which will be managed by a housing cooperative. I've already indicated that I think it's most inappropriate that they are building these buildings on Toronto Islands. It really contradicts all planning policies of open space on the waterfront. All policies have been set aside. Most strange.

With respect to the subject of non-profit housing—and I would like to spend some time on that, because I think this government is still convinced that this is the solution—the Progressive Conservative Party has indicated that our policy recommends extending the use of shelter allowances, which would provide a government supplement to be used towards rent at an average cost of just over \$137 per month per needy family. More and more facts are being put forward as to who is receiving the benefits of co-ops, who is receiving the benefits of non-profit housing. It's not the fair concept. It may have been initially, on paper, a concept that was going to help the poor, but that isn't how it's turned out.

Recently, and it's been reported of course, the expensive Woodgreen community which is on Coxwell Avenue was opened last April by the current Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Ms Churley, who, of course, is an ex-co-op dweller herself. There are 11 bachelor apartments there, each subsidized by the neighbouring taxpayers to the tune of \$1,924 per month, while the average rent for a bachelor apartment in Toronto is \$490. Again, when you're introducing these policies of co-ops and non-profit housing, think of the reality, think of what the taxpayer is in fact paying for these things. These buildings are being subsidized by the poor, the taxpayer, the very people whom you're trying to assist.

The Social Assistance Review Committee, which is chaired by the now Deputy Attorney General, George Thomson, has stated that only 18% of social assistance recipients get to live in publicly subsidized housing. Again, this is what we're trying to put over on Toronto Island.

Another internal government study shows that only 20% of poor people in deep need of assisted housing get into government-assisted co-ops. Instead, more than 60% of co-op residents have salaries ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year and, again, it's getting back to Mr Stockwell's comment about who's living over there now, and yet we're going to put another series of housing which isn't working, the non-profit and co-op housing. It's not working. We keep grinding these things out. Almost every other week something is announced.

This same Social Assistance Review Committee says that many of the families getting provincial welfare benefits spend more than 50% of their welfare cheque on rent, and 70% of recipients are single mothers who must then rely on food banks to feed their children.

The other interesting thing is that the Minister of Housing is playing a large role in this whole plan of co-ops and

non-profit housing on the Toronto Islands or whether it be over on the corner of Bay and Wellesley. Shortly after taking over her portfolio as the Minister of Housing, she changed the system of allocating who gets hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of government-assisted housing.

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I can say that because I, believe it or not, happen to have been on a committee, a non-profit housing corporation in the town of Orangeville, and I saw the other side of the coin. I've seen how this works, but all proposed projects in the past went through a rigorous process of review by ministry officials to decide which ones would get approved, and communities all across this province were following those principles.

The Minister of Housing, Ms Gigantes, has changed all that. She now approves all projects. So what we're looking at is that all of a sudden these two areas have jumped up the list. What about all the other applications? Assuming that your policies are correct, and I don't agree with them, but all these people—it's like the municipal board jumpings. They've all jumped up the list. She approves all projects. Her office deletes projects that have gone through the normal channels and adds others that have not. One official, we've been told, has said that people are turned down by the ministry and they simply laugh at them. The ministry offices simply laugh at them when they try to get approved.

There's another issue that I must talk about: the integrity of this government, which really troubles me. Minnie DeJong, who is the special assistant to Ms Gigantes, participates in decisions about funding allocations to build government-assisted housing. A major recipient of this funding in the form of sector support fees is the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario. Guess who is the manager of the policy and program development of the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario? Her husband is. It's all getting very clubby as to how all this works. It's very strange as to the Premier's policy on conflicts of interest, which even he isn't following with respect to the development in his riding.

I think that whole concept needs to be reviewed by the Minister of Housing. It's fine to say we're going to put co-op housing and non-profit housing on the island, but let's talk about the planning. Let's talk about who gets what allocations, and where and why and when and who's got the inside track. That appears to be the issue: Who's got the inside track? I've given one example and it's very troubling.

The other issue I am concerned about on this expansion of the non-profit housing and co-op housing to the Toronto Islands is that there's no question that prices have crashed in the real estate market. They have, but the government doesn't seem to have noticed that. Where are apartments being built? Why would you build an apartment? The non-profit housing people are going under them. They're putting them out of business. The affordable housing monster is chaired by our current Minister of Housing. She's plowing ahead and putting non-profit housing all over the place, whether it be at Bay and Wellesley or whether it be on the Toronto Islands.

I must say there's a concern that there will be no further developments. This has been going on certainly since this government took power through the whole process of Bill 4 and Bill 121 and now into this. These are just more examples of the developers, private enterprise, who normally put up the money to build private buildings, and they're not doing it. The government has taken over the housing industry and it's expanding on to the Toronto Islands at a cost that is rather astounding.

Since October 1988, Ontario has approved 66,000 units of non-profit housing, and the cost of these units will be at least \$100,000 each. That's a total of \$6.6 billion. At this moment, an estimated \$260 million will be paid to consultants, architects, lawyers and mortgage brokers before they even dig a shovel in the ground.

With regard to this concept of non-profit housing and co-op housing that they're going to have over on Metro island, they won't be able to proceed with the application unless they hire a consultant. They're going to have to hire a consultant to tell how you wade through the myriad forms and mysterious documentation in the Ministry of Housing simply to get there.

It's going to cost a lot of money just to hire a consultant. Does private enterprise hire those types of people? No, but the province of Ontario does. In fact, the government of Ontario used to have its own in-house people, but now there are consultants, whether it be lawyers, architects, consultants, who are making unbelievable amounts of money before you even put a shovel into the ground to develop these areas.

Again, we're talking about solving a social problem, solving a housing problem. This government's going about it the wrong way, because it's costing the taxpayer of this province unbelievable amounts of money, as opposed to the subsidy program that's being suggested by our leader, Mr Harris.

The biggest non-building cost uncovered in the information that's being made available by the government on the first 6,140 units built since 1988 is the fees of more than \$10 million being paid to organizational consultants. That's \$10 million which normally isn't spent. When private enterprise puts up this sort of thing, it doesn't spend that, but this government is spending, just to date, \$10 million before it even digs a shovel into the ground. By the time all 66,000 units approved by the government are built, these consultants, these lawyers, these architects will be costing the taxpayers more than \$105 million. The Toronto Islands, the co-op housing and non-profit housing, is just part of that.

This isn't bad work for just paperwork, because that's really all it is. It's a complete waste of time that should be going to the needy of this province, the unemployed of this province, the people who are having trouble being fed in this province through food banks.

The whole concept as to how you're doing it is dead wrong. The member for York Centre is right. One of the best questions, the most-asked question that is given to me is: "How do we get rid of you people? You come up with these ideas that don't make any sense. Why would you put non-profit housing and co-op housing in a park?"

The whole plan of this bill is faulty and I would recommend that all members of this House vote against it. Who ever said there is no profit to non-profit housing? There's all kinds of profit being made at the expense of the taxpayer.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to participate this afternoon in this debate. I hope that the members of this House, particularly the members of the government, will reconsider what they've been saying on the three areas I've been speaking of. The preferential treatment shows that it's unfair to the taxpayers of Metro Toronto, that it's unfair to the taxpayers of the province of Ontario.

I hope you will look at the environmental aspects and what you will do. You will recall what members of your party have said over the years of trying to preserve our parkland, because you're not doing that by this policy. You're building buildings on parkland. Finally, it's inappropriate to build non-profit housing and co-op housing on parkland, particularly on the Toronto Islands.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? Seeing none, further debate? Seeing none, would the honourable parliamentary assistant have some words to wrap up?

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Mr Elston: Don't be provocative.

Mr Mills: I'm going to be provocative, because I find it quite awful that we've listened to the member for Etobicoke West call some very fine citizens of the province of Ontario socialist squatters. I don't think that is very fair. They are taxpaying, law-abiding citizens and they expect to be treated properly in this House, the House of the people of Ontario.

Having said that, I would now like to respond to some of the questions that were posed here. This problem of the residential community located on the Toronto Islands has baffled provincial governments for years. You've all tried to solve it and you couldn't. Peterson tried to solve it, Harris tried to solve it and he couldn't, and their candidates in the last election in that riding expressed their commitment to preserving the Toronto island community by legislating home ownership in the hands of those with proper owner documentation.

The acknowledgement of home ownership by the island community is the key to understanding why the opposition claim that the island residents are getting a bargain, \$30 monthly rent, is a total distortion of the truth. The truth is that the principles of this legislation, as proposed by the government's appointee, Richard Johnston, for this settlement, are totally fair to all parties concerned, including the taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto and the province.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The accusation that was just made by the honourable member, while unbecoming of him, is also unparliamentary in asserting a distortion of the truth. I ask you to ask him to withdraw.

The Acting Speaker: I did not hear the honourable member mention any individual members.

Mr Mancini: He spit at all of us.

The Acting Speaker: He actually mentioned the opposition. He may want to withdraw. In my opinion, it is not unparliamentary. The honourable parliamentary assistant.

Mr Mills: The people of the islands own their own homes.

Mr Elston: The government members are. How's that—

Mr Stockwell: The government members are a bunch of liars.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Mills: And David Peterson and Michael Harris and other prominent Liberals and Tories have long acknowledged—

Mr Stockwell: You're a bunch of liars.

The Acting Speaker: Order. That is not parliamentary. I'm sorry.

Mr Elston: What's the difference?

The Acting Speaker: Would you please consider withdrawing what I have just heard from both the member for Bruce and the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Elston: What is the difference? Mr Speaker, I will withdraw—

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Elston: —but I ask to have a written ruling that says what's different between what I said and what he's just said.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. There has been a withdrawal.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I ask for your ruling on that.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Etobicoke West, would you consider withdrawing?

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, the member for Durham East—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I asked for a withdrawal, unconditional, please.

Mr Stockwell: He said that the opposition was distorting the truth, misrepresenting the truth, Mr Speaker. That, to me, is unparliamentary.

The Acting Speaker: I asked for a withdrawal. Is the honourable member prepared to withdraw?

Mr Stockwell: When I say the government members are liars it means exactly the same thing. Mr Speaker, if you took offence to that, then I will withdraw that comment, on the proviso that I get a ruling from the Chair as to whether the member for Durham East can suggest that—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I heard the honourable member withdraw, and I asked for unconditional. Would the honourable member for Durham East also reconsider what he has said?

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, if it so offends the member for Etobicoke West—

Mr Elston: And me.

Mr Mills: —I will unequivocally withdraw the fact.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Please proceed.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): It offends all of us, Gordy.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Durham East please proceed.

Mr Sorbara: Now hold on a second, Gordy.

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, let me include the members of the Liberal Party too, okay?

Mr Sorbara: You're one of the best speakers. Put down your written notes and tell us what you're saying.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The parliamentary assistant has the floor. Please proceed and address your remarks to the Chair.

Mr Mills: Usually, Mr Speaker—

Mr Sorbara: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Does the parliamentary assistant have to read that drivel that's prepared for him by the ministry officials? Can't he just give us a speech?

The Acting Speaker: Order. That's not a point of anything. The Minister of Transportation, on a point of what?

Hon Mr Pouliot: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's obvious, with the highest of respect, sir, that the opposition is testing the patience of yet the most congenial—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I know it's close to 6 of the clock and there's a lot of testing going on on all sides. I would ask the honourable parliamentary assistant and member for Durham East to proceed.

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, in the interests of time and we're trying to push on, I'm going to—I usually speak without any notes at all, but I can't concentrate when everyone keeps jabbering and giving it to me.

We heard comment about the ferry service. The people on Toronto Islands pay \$2.75 a day for it and then they pay their TTC fares on top of that. The ferry—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. We're getting close to 6 o'clock. Please allow the parliamentary assistant to proceed.

Mr Mills: Ferry services would still have to be maintained whether they lived there or not for park visitors, workers, mainland students.

I'd just like to talk about the schools. The island school serves not only the children of the islanders but 170 children who live in the Harbourfront area and it serves the city of Toronto. Hundreds of grade 5 and 6 students stay for a week to go to the school.

As I said, island residents have always paid their full share of taxes. They've always owned their own houses and all of Ontario's political parties have long been committed to returning their homes to them. The main issue that had to be resolved was how to arrange payment of the use of the public lands on which their homes sat. They constantly tried to pay rent for the land. They could never get anyone to tell them what to pay. That doesn't mean they got rent free any time. That issue has been factored into the land-lease payments required by this legislation.

The opposition tells us the land-lease purchase price of \$36,000 to \$46,000 for 99 years amounts to \$30 a month. Again, this is a total—oh, I almost said it. This isn't true. As I mentioned, the residents have long ago paid for their homes, so the purchase price doesn't include consideration of the value of the actual homes. They already own them and it doesn't represent the normal purchase price of land because what they are buying gives them very limited equity in the land. They won't profit on the sale of the land like any other park. Any profits on the sale of the land will be tightly controlled by a formula designed to eliminate speculation and maintain the affordability of these homes.

Mr Stockwell: I'll give you \$55 for every lot and I'll be a millionaire tomorrow.

Mr Mahoney: I don't think I could stand you as a millionaire.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. This does not help in the debate one bit. Could the honourable member for Durham East continue with his participation?

Mr Mills: The clock is ticking away. During the debate yesterday and today we heard umpteen questions pumped at the government: Why are you doing this? Why are you doing that? This is unfair. That's unfair. I've risen on my feet this afternoon in an attempt to address those issues and they won't listen. They don't want me to address them, they keep shouting at me, so I'm going to give up.

I'm not even going to try to explain to you the issues because it's a shame that in this Legislature you don't want to listen to reason; you don't want to listen to the people. There's an 80-year-old woman sitting there who escaped Nazi Germany. It's a disgrace that that woman was called by the member for Etobicoke West a squatter, and a socialist squatter. That's a disgrace.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Could the members please resume their seats.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I take great exception to what that member just said. He knows it to be untrue. What I said during the debate—there are a handful of people who lived on that island since the beginning of this debate. I wasn't speaking about them. I said I'm not speaking about those people and to suggest that is maligning me and what I said in this House. You should withdraw it, sir.

1750

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. On a point of order, the honourable member for York Centre.

Mr Stockwell: You should withdraw that, Mills. That's an unfair shot and you know it. You didn't even listen. I told you the ones who had been there—I wasn't speaking about them.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for York Centre is on a point of order.

Mr Stockwell: That's unbelievable.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, I simply want to join with the member for Etobicoke West in suggesting a withdrawal of the remarks would be appropriate.

I do want to congratulate the parliamentary assistant for abandoning the drivel that the ministry wrote for him and indulging in his own drivel.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The parliamentary assistant and member for Durham East.

Mr Mills: Mr Speaker, thank you. In closing, this is not only a fair deal for the island residents; it is a fair deal for everyone.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want that comment withdrawn. It maligned me. It maligned what my speech was, and it is absolutely untrue. What do I need to say to get this member to withdraw it? If he's going to stand by those comments, then I ask him to make them outside.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. If the honourable member for Durham East wants to withdraw, he is the only one that can correct his record. The honourable member for Durham East, please proceed.

Mr Mills: As I said, this is not only a fair deal for the island residents; it's a fair deal for everyone. The island residents, in my opinion, are to be commended for their vision in developing a community model to maintain the sustainable carless community through piloting the use in Ontario of a community land trust.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. We are now moving to proceed with second reading of Bill 61.

Mr Cooke has moved second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship—

Mr Stockwell: Go read Hansard and make sure. You're lying, Gord. Just say it. There's no relation to what the facts were. This is disgusting you should say that. It was nothing of what I said—nothing.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I know it's getting close to 6 o'clock and the members are restless.

Mr Cooke has moved second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands.

Shall Mr Cooke's motion carry?

All those in favour of Mr Cooke's motion please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Cooke's motion please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. A 30-minute bell—a maximum of 30 minutes.

The division bells rang from 1754 to 1807.

The Acting Speaker: The Speaker has received a note dated November 18, 1992, addressed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

"Pursuant to standing order 27(g), I request that the vote on the motion by David Cooke for second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands, be deferred until after routine proceedings on November 19, 1992," that being tomorrow. It is signed by Frank Miclash, MPP, deputy opposition whip.

I therefore declare that the vote will be held tomorrow pursuant to routine proceedings.

It now being past six of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday at 10 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1809.

ERRATA

| No. | Page | Column | Line | Should read: |
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| 78 | 3196 | 2 | 51 | John McCrae, one of our heroes who died in the first |
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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Acting Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités par intérim: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | Attorney General/Procureur général Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessinger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Mclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Larry O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Bob Huget
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, W. Leo Jordan,
Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer,
David Turnbull, Daniel Waters, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 19 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 19 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 19 November 1992

The House met at 1001.

Prayers.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I ask for unanimous consent of the House to switch the order of presentation of our ballots between myself and Mr Perruzza. I have spoken to him about it, I have spoken to Mr Cooke and also to my friend Mr Eves. Because of the advent of the 11 o'clock House leaders' meeting, I would ask that unanimous consent be given.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is there unanimous consent? Agreed.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM RÉFORME DU RÈGLEMENT

Mr Elston moved resolution number 31:

That, in the opinion of this House,

Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

Whereas recognizing that Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time members may speak to only 30 minutes; and

Whereas recognizing that Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers which in turn makes them less accountable to the House and people of Ontario; and

Whereas recognizing that Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

Whereas recognizing that Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly who are accountable to the people who elect them; and

Whereas recognizing that these rules diminish the rights of the minority to properly voice their concerns and limit their privilege to utilize the mechanisms of Parliament as full and equal members of the House,

Premier Rae and the government of Ontario must withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 96(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I bring this to the floor of the House in my private members' time because of

several reasons, but one of them certainly is that in order that this place function, the people who are elected to represent their constituents must be able to speak their minds on any piece of legislation.

I have been here since 1981 and I understand, probably as well as anybody, that you will never find a unanimous position in this House on every occasion. In fact, it's very rare that you'll find a unanimous position inside any of our caucuses.

I've been a member of a government caucus, I've been a member of cabinet and I've been a member of opposition caucuses and I can tell you that I understand the dynamic that goes on inside the caucus meetings. I understand that there are days on which cabinet ministers come in to present their material to the caucus members in general and receive a fair bit of intensive questioning as to the ramifications of their particular policy position and whether or not it's within rational, sensible policy to be introduced on the public at large.

I can understand as well what goes on inside opposition caucuses; not just my own, but I can understand what goes on inside the Conservative caucus and the opposition New Democratic Party caucus in the days when it was in opposition. There's intense debate.

The one difficulty beyond anything else is that those debates, in cabinet or in caucus, whether government or opposition caucus, are done in private—not necessarily in secret, because there are a whole bunch of ways that information gets out. In fact, to the chagrin of government and even opposition caucuses from time to time, the debate itself almost verbatim gets out into the public.

But what happens when this forum, this Legislative Assembly, which is for the very purpose of airing every opinion of every member who represents his or her constituents, is prevented from carrying out its function? You end up with a diminution of the democracy we all respect and desire.

I am putting this obviously from the point of view of an opposition politician who is frustrated, but I can tell you I put it from the point also of someone who believes that some time the Liberal Party will come back to power. Whether that happens sooner or later is with regard to how people vote.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Later, hopefully.

Mr Elston: It'll maybe be later. Who knows? But I do it in the sense that I have an understanding that the people will elect another government at some time, that at some time, perhaps, I will serve in a government administration, and that at some time I will be frustrated in not having the most efficient move of legislation from my desk through this place and into the public domain as a law of this province.

I understand what the desire for efficiency is all about. But I also understand, I think, better than most, because of

the issues I handled when I was a minister, that the population in general cannot be expected to understand or even accept the introduction of new policy or changes which radically alter the way the society of which we are members is conducted if they have not had a chance to listen to and to participate, in committee, through letter-writing or some other means with their member, in the debate.

Democracy is an interesting tool. It does allow the majority to have its sway in regard to public policy. That's well known and I respect that, but the element that distinguishes democracy from many of the other forms of government is that it ensures that the minority may speak in a way which puts its position effectively and often, if it wishes, in contrast to the position being established by the majority. If you cannot do that, then you cannot claim to have a democracy and you cannot claim to have a chamber which represents a democratic institution.

We've had very serious differences of opinion and the government knew we would have serious differences of opinion with respect to Bill 40, the labour relations amendment act. So what happened? They introduced Bill 40 and the next day they dropped the new rules on the table and they said: "You will accept these and they will be done the way we want them done so that we can efficiently put this bill through this Legislative Assembly. We don't care if you don't like what we're doing. We don't care that there is a substantial group of people in our society that disagrees with us. We will have our way."

So after three days of second reading debate, we ended up losing any other opportunity to speak to the bill on principle, except as was allowed by the time allocation motion that the new rules allowed the government party to introduce. It shut us down. It did not let the members of the Liberal caucus speak against the bill or for it, if they chose. It did not allow every member of the Tory caucus to speak for or against the bill, as he or she chose. It did not even allow the backbench members or any of the ministers, necessarily, of the New Democratic Party government to speak for or against the bill. In fact, what was happening was that a very small number of people were allowed to speak, when every constituency, right from one side to the other of this province, was affected by this major policy change.

While I understand that policies are not unanimously accepted, there is a sense that there is legitimacy if the people are allowed to put their points, to have their case studied in their council chamber. That's all this place is. Because of the very nature of this place, the majority vote is always going to carry. But what the majority has done with the new rules is to have its way without allowing any venting of any of the opposition—or virtually none of the opposition—in this place by those who opposed Bill 40.

1010

It doesn't just stop there. You see, it is a general application of the rule changes, not just for the purpose of that one bill. We have had time allocation, or we have had the threat of time allocation, with respect to several other pieces of legislation since these rules came in on June 22, as I just noted.

We cannot allow this to carry on if we are to allow ourselves to talk about having a democratic society. We cannot allow ourselves to represent our constituents and say, "I will put your case in the Legislative Assembly," when each of the members knows full well here that she or he will have almost no opportunity to put their case when a controversial bill appears.

Most of us don't want to speak to all of the bills. Most of our constituencies are not affected by all of the bills to the degree which requires us to interject on all occasions. As members, we choose the places where our constituents propel us to become involved, or, on occasion, people like me who move from one area of criticism to another to assist schedules of our members speak on more than area so that we can put the case for the caucus as has been determined by our consultations around the legislation.

In any event, we can no longer tell our constituents when we go back that we can assure them we'll speak on this issue, because not only are we not apt to get on the list because of the numbers of people who are present here to speak, but we probably can't even get on the list in committee, because the committee itself is restricted in such a way by the time allocation allowed under these new rules that we are prevented from having any kind of free-rein debate or discussion in those committees that really lets us examine the policy. The rules do that. They shut us down. They prevent an airing of the views of the minority. They do, by the way, prevent an airing of the views of the majority on many occasions. That also is a bad effect of the rules that we have now, and a reason why they should be thrown out.

I am really concerned that we cannot claim to have a democracy with the rules that we now have. The manner in which the time allocation motions have read for Bill 40 and others is such that there is no way that we can even examine the nature of the amendments to the bill which are being put. You've probably heard me on occasion stand and complain that none of the amendments to Bill 40 were read, or at least a substantial number of them were not even read, during the committee time.

We were also told that it doesn't matter any more. Well, it does matter for the purposes of our constituents. It does matter for the purpose of democracy. If we really want to be democratic, we've got to change these rules.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I'm going to be relatively brief, because I want to leave the majority of the time for our House leader, the member for Parry Sound.

When a number of proposals were brought forward by the government House leader to change our standing orders, our caucus took the position of entering into negotiation with the House leader notwithstanding the manner in which they were presented to us, sort of in a very secretive form one Thursday evening, and we found out about those proposals by the government House leader in the Monday morning papers, not through a proper communication with other House leaders about the kinds of changes that the government House leader sought.

The timing of them also was very unfortunate because we were entering into a debate on one of the most controversial pieces of legislation, Bill 40, which we vehemently

opposed and which the government strongly supported. But we looked at it in a constructive sense and said yes, the people of Ontario, perhaps looking in on these debates, were not satisfied with the standing orders and the order of debate. So we entered into negotiations and sought some improvements. Unfortunately, those improvements did not include any of the suggestions we put forward to the government House leader which in our view were not all to the advantage of the opposition but would have been to the advantage of all members here.

In the end, we voted for the changes because we thought of the good intentions, the understanding behind the written words, the understanding not only by the government House leader as to how those rules would be used, in as few instances as possible, but also that the Chair would take the intention of those rules, and in making rulings upon the new wording, would draw an equal line between the government's right to govern and the opposition's right to oppose.

Well, Mr Speaker, I must say that we are not very happy, particularly with the way the Chair has ruled upon these new standing orders. We are not very happy that the Chair evidently now has taken the position that the rules are there for the government of the day and not for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We are not very happy about the way the government House leader has used these rules to cut off debate and to cut off putting forward meaningful amendments.

Our party put forward some 94 or 96 amendments to Bill 40, on behalf of many of the people who came forward during public hearings, during that debate, and some of those amendments were not even read in this Legislature. We find that an insult to the people who came in front of that committee. Therefore, we have found that the working out of these rules, as per our understanding as to some goodwill on the part of the government House leader and a fair interpretation taking into account both the government side and the opposition side, and the understanding we have about how this place works—we had hoped that the Chair, the Speaker, would make rulings that were fair to both sides.

I must say that after one of his rulings, particularly on a time allocation motion, there was serious consideration on this side of the House for a censure motion against the Speaker. That doesn't happen very often in Parliament. I think the last time that happened was by a former New Democratic Party leader, Donald MacDonald, against John Turner who sat in your chair in the early 1980s. Mr Speaker, we decided not to do that at this time, but we are that concerned about how pro-government the Speaker has become in using these new rules to shut down the opposition. I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, that while we considered that, we decided not to go ahead because we believe the integrity of this institution is more important and perhaps we can work this out at some future time.

That is why we will be voting very strongly in favour of Mr Elston's motion today. We do not believe either the Chair, the Speaker or the government House leader has used and interpreted these rules to the best possible way for all members of this Legislature, in the manner in which

we thought they would be used when we negotiated and agreed to them back in June.

I guess what I'm saying is that we were perhaps wrong in giving support at that time. At that time, we had thought, in good faith, that we could continue to make this place a constructive, meaningful place for debate of the business of the people of Ontario. Perhaps we were wrong at that time.

At this time, we would urge all members of the Legislature to support Mr Elston and go back to the standing orders, if we want to talk about negotiating the standing orders prior to June 5, and let's negotiate another set of rules so that we can return this place to a meaningful Legislature as it was prior to that date.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Cochrane South stood up before you did.

1020

Mr Bisson: First of all, I want to say right off the top that I will not be supporting Mr Elston's motion, and I want to lay out fairly clearly why.

One of the things Mr Elston talks about in his motion is that he is upset, along with some of the people in the opposition, that somehow they've lost their ability to be able to express themselves on a number of views.

First of all, the way the rules applied before, members could get up ad infinitum—some of the members of our own party have done that in the past—and speak at length on an issue, not allowing other members in the Legislature to be able to get up in their places to speak.

One of the difficulties we saw under the old rules, let's say during second reading—let's say we allow, through the process of the Legislative Assembly, two, three or four days for second reading on a particular bill—is that somebody would get up from one party or another—and this is not criticizing opposition or government; I think we're all equally into this thing—one member would stand up and take up most of the time. What then ended up happening was that a lot of members had no opportunity to speak on that particular bill in order to bring forward the views from that person's individual riding, if that particular member had heard from the people there.

One of the things this rule does is that it turns around and limits us as politicians to really try to get to the point in debate, being able to say: "You have 30 minutes in order to put forward your view. If you have 30 minutes to put forward your view, put that concisely so that people out there can understand what your views are. Be more concise about what you're saying."

One of the things that is interesting since the new rules have come into place is that people in my riding and in other places in the province have told me that at least the Legislature is now a little bit more interesting to watch when it comes to debates on bills. Before, they would sit there and watch the same person speak for two or three hours and sometimes two days on a particular bill, and people wouldn't bother watching it. They said, "That person has repeated himself six times over and that's just enough of that." One thing people—I'm not saying all, but

a lot of people—are saying is, “At least now we’re hearing various points of view, which makes it a little bit more interesting.”

The other point I want to make is on the question, Monsieur le Président, faisant affaire avec le processus démocratique devant l’Assemblée législative.

M. Elston dit, dans sa motion, qu’il y a la peur que ce processus-là des règlements qu’on a changés ôte les droits des députés de l’Assemblée faisant affaire avec leurs droits démocratiques dans l’Assemblée. Mais les Libéraux, pour se planter ici aujourd’hui dans l’Assemblée législative de l’Ontario et parler d’un processus démocratique quand leur chef fédéral, M. Chrétien, veut appointer quelqu’un pour être représentant à l’élection fédérale sans avoir un processus démocratique pour les personnes de cette circonscription-là pour choisir leur député, écoutez, j’ai un peu un problème. Tu ne peux pas parler des deux bords de ta bouche en même temps.

The other thing I want to say very quickly is that the question is the amount of reduced days within the time of the Legislature. The member has put forward in this resolution the question that somehow, because we’re away from this place one additional week per year, it’s taking away from the ability of people to be in touch with their politicians in the Legislature. Excuse me, but one of the things most people in all our ridings, including those of members of the opposition, complain about justifiably is that members are never in their ridings. Why? Because we spend a lot of time in Toronto dealing with important business within the Legislature.

I think politics, and the whole system as far as what’s happened in the Ontario over the years is concerned, have put us in the position where the people of our ridings demand more time from us to be able to be in our riding in order to deal with the concerns of the men and the women in our ridings.

I think that’s an equal criticism all members of this Legislature get: The people of our ridings want us there. It’s not to say that we shouldn’t be in Toronto. Obviously, we wear two hats in our role. We are legislators, but we also are people who listen to the problems of the people of our ridings and try to advocate for change for those particular things. The losing of the one day within the whole sessional calendar to be able to be in our ridings I don’t see as a negative thing.

Mr Elston: One day?

Mr Bisson: Or one week; excuse me.

Mr Elston: Two; you’d better start reading the calendar.

Mr Bisson: It is not a thing that I think takes away anything from our ability to be able to do our jobs. If it does anything, it gives us more of an opportunity to be directly within our ridings to do our jobs.

The last thing—and I would challenge Mr Elston to respond to this particular point—is that if he believes this—and that is his right, and he can express himself and I respect his views; I just happen to have a different opinion on it—I would ask him to tell me at the end of this debate, if he were elected, if his Liberal Party or the Conservative Party were elected as government the next time around,

would they repeal the rules and put them back to the same way? I would challenge to see what would happen the next time, if they’re fortunate enough to be able to be elected at the next election.

Mr Elston: I already said that would be my position. Why didn’t you listen to my debate? Take the cotton batting out of your ears.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Normally we go in rotation. So you accept?

Mr Elston: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Parry Sound.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I’m going to make my comments brief this morning with respect to this private member’s ballot item. I want to talk primarily, I guess, about what I think has been a restriction on the role of the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly as a result of these rule changes, and I’d like to get a few comments on the record.

I just heard the honourable member talking about the rule changes shortening the calendar by one week, but that’s not in fact the case. The new rule changes shorten the legislative calendar by two weeks, not one. Originally, the government had requested shortening it by three weeks. I think it’s very difficult to explain to the public out there, especially in these times, why we don’t want to sit in the Legislative Assembly for two or three more weeks a year, shortening our workload here in this place.

I have constituents like everybody else does. In fact, I represent the fifth-largest geographical riding in the entire province of Ontario and I have more organized municipalities than any other single riding in the province of Ontario, so I know all too well demands about constituents and constituency time. But I also understand I’m elected to come here and represent those people at Queen’s Park, and I’m not looking for an extra three weeks a year off at the taxpayers’ expense when I should be here doing the business of the province of Ontario in the Legislative Assembly.

Then we go to House leaders’ meetings and have the government House leader tell us, “Well, we’re going to have to sit till midnight the last two weeks, and we’re going to have to introduce time allocation and this and that, because we don’t want to be here three weeks a year as we used to be here in the past.”

It just doesn’t wash. You can’t have it both ways. Quite frankly, I’m more than willing to be here right up till Christmas Eve, if need be, and we have done that on occasion in this House, when we had responsible governments that wanted to get business done instead of going home three weeks early. That’s so much for that point.

When these rule changes were passed, I would like to say that we were told by the government, and in particular by the government House leader, that the government had no intention whatsoever of using time allocation motions on a frequent basis, that they would be used extremely rarely and only under the most extenuating of circumstances would the government ever think about using a time allocation motion.

Well, these standing orders haven’t been in this place for more than about six months—not even six

months, about five months—and out of those five months, the Legislature didn't sit for two of them. In the last period of time since these standing orders have been in place, they used it on Bill 150, on worker ownership, on the third reading debate on July 21, less than one month after the rule changes were introduced, after three hours and 24 minutes of debate on second reading and two hours of debate on third reading.

That is the government's definition, I guess, of only using this under extenuating circumstances. That's their definition of democracy. I find it hard to believe that any reasonable human being would think that a combined total of five hours and 24 minutes on two reading stages of a bill necessitates a time allocation motion. If they do, they come from a different sort of democracy than I'm used to dealing with. We have those types of countries in the world but they're certainly not democracies.

1030

Two weeks after the rule changes were introduced, the government used time allocation again on Bill 40, its labour legislation. Of course we all know that was the primary reason that these rule changes were brought in in the first place, because they wanted to expedite Bill 40.

They wanted to use time allocation on Bill 40 despite the fact—and I'm sure the House leader for the Liberal Party will remember this—that when we sat in House leaders' meetings, the government House leader said that the government had no intention of using time allocation motion, had no intention of using new rule changes on Bill 40, the labour bill. That's exactly what he told us. He told us that on more than one occasion and then he turned around and did exactly the opposite two weeks after the rule changes were implemented.

The first piece of legislation the government decided to deal with when it came back this fall was automobile insurance, which is totally baffling to a lot of us on this side of the House. There are so many economic problems out there. The government said it's committed to issues like employment equity and pay equity. They have stated time and time again that this is what they regard as the number one priority.

What did they bring on as their first, most important piece of legislation after we came back? Automobile insurance has been sitting out there on the back burner for about 15 months and all they do is introduce basically the plan that the former government had, after they—when they were in opposition of course—criticized and screamed and yelled about that plan and actually ran a good part of their election campaign against it in 1990. Then when the two opposition parties told the government how long they would need to debate automobile insurance, they threatened to use a time allocation motion again.

At the outset, we may have been somewhat naïve, I guess, because we actually believed what was coming from the government's mouth could be believed. We believed that it was honest, forthright and up front and, lo and behold, we find out that wasn't the case at all. It is somewhat disturbing, to say the least.

I also want to say that there are parliamentary precedents for Speakers having the discretion as to when

enough debate has taken place on a particular bill at any stage. That's called of course a closure motion, and even a time allocation motion, without these new rule changes.

Really what they've done is taken away almost any authority that the Speakers had. The Speaker would appear under these rules to be a mere figurehead to watch over procedural matters in the chamber as opposed to having any authority whatsoever; and then the government wonders why on some occasions the opposition is a little raucous and the Speaker has a problem controlling the House.

I think the answer is more than obvious. When you don't deal in good faith with other people you can expect them to become a little bit upset, especially in a parliamentary democracy, I would submit.

I also want to say that I'm a little bit disturbed about two recent rulings that the Speaker has made—not you, Mr Speaker, but the Speaker Speaker. One was about adjourning the House after 6 pm when the mace was on the table, as it is now. I can't help it if the government House leader didn't craft his time allocation motion succinctly enough or particularly enough, but I find it most galling that any Speaker would refuse to recognize that the House is in session when the mace is on the table. I think that is a totally incorrect ruling. I don't care why the Speaker was in the chair; the reality was that he was and the House was in session. I think the Speaker should very seriously consider retracting or overruling that ruling of his.

The other was a ruling that he made to my friend from Etobicoke the other day when unanimous consent was given to reply. No time limit was set, but the Speaker enforced a time limit arbitrarily.

The Deputy Speaker: Your time has expired. Thank you.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I beg the indulgence of the House as I have quite a severe cold, so I'm afraid I'll be a basso profundo for my time up speaking.

I would like to say that some of the points that have been put forward by the opposition need to be considered by this House and some I have some sympathy and some resonance with. I would like to say, for instance, that the process by which these changes were introduced into this chamber was certainly questionable. I did not support them. I felt they were a little on the secretive side and did not pay due attention to the form and the respect we need to have for all the members of this House, so I was not very happy with that process.

In regard to the 30-minute time, I think that actually in this resolution as it's been put forward by the opposition, unfortunately the focus shouldn't have been on the 30 minutes allotted for members to speak, because I believe that 30 minutes is enough for members to speak. Having been here for two years and heard the speeches of this House, I have to say there are very few members in this House who can speak concisely and to the point in a short period of time. They tend to ramble, and ramblings and sharings of ignorance are not particularly edifying to this House or to the people of the province.

But indeed I will take the point by the members of the opposition, particularly the member for Bruce when he declaims the fact that the time allocations have been used and even, dare I say, abused by the government. He is right when he says that. We have misused that standing order, and I say that in great sadness. There is no need to whip the opposition with time allocation every time the government wants to move ahead, and I think it is unfortunate that we have proceeded in that particular way.

I want to say, in regard to the rest of the resolution, I disagree with the honourable members when they say we should be spending all our time here in this august House. Indeed there needs to be time with our constituents. I have some 30 municipalities, all of them clamouring to have time with me to speak about their needs and their aspirations as municipalities. To indicate that that is not time well spent but rather to be here listening to some of the things we tend to listen to, I would say is wrong and false and needs to be responded to in that way.

As for the role of the Speaker, I agree again with the opposition on this resolution when they say the neutrality of the Speaker has been tampered with because we have removed some of the discretion our Speaker has. But I would go further and say that is not just because of the changes brought forth by this government.

In fact if we look at the standing orders of our House and compare them to Houses across the country, or even the House of Commons or Westminster, what we see in effect is that the standing orders we have used in this House have limited the discretion of the Speaker to the nth degree. We don't have to take all the blame for that. It has to be apportioned as well to the other parties that have led governments in the past.

I know the opposition members hate to hear these kinds of things, an even-handed approach to this resolution, but they're going to have an even-handed approach whether they like it or not.

Let me say also that I agree with the opposition members, dare I say it, when they talk about the concentration of the power in the Office of the Premier. They are right. They are right, but did this begin with Bob Rae? No. It was the same under David Peterson. It was the same under Mr Davis. It has been a tradition in the last 20 years to have that kind of concentration of power.

Again I look at the member for Bruce and I see him saying that this is not true. He was part of the cabinet; he knows the truth of this situation. Power has been concentrated for too many years by too many first ministers and his party is just as much to blame in this unfortunate situation.

Where do we go with this resolution? On many of the issues that have been brought forward I agree with the opposition members. I agree that they have not been able to—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): How can you be so stupid and so wrong. It was agreed to by the three parties in resolution. At least get your facts straight.

1040

The Deputy Speaker: Order, the member for St Catharines.

Mr Drainville: —exercise their rights. I agree that they have not been able to give debate as they properly should, that they have been restrained in certain ways. I want to say to that I agree with them. But as far as their saying that we should go back to the rules of before June 22, 1992, I can only say that when they were in government in this House, they were not the ones to stand up for parliamentary reform.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Yorkview, order please.

Mr Drainville: If we are to have parliamentary reform, it will have to be reform that is brought about by all the members who forced the power élites within their own parties to begin to change. That includes the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party and the people in our own government. Changes need to be made and they need to be made quickly or the people will lose patience, as they already, I believe, have.

Mr Bradley: I cannot think of an issue which, in my over 15 years in this Legislature, has perturbed me more than the changes that have been brought through with the government majority in this House under the orders of the Premier of the province of Ontario.

The reason for this is quite obvious. Those of us who are elected to public office are the official spokespersons for the people we represent. If you want the views of your constituents to be adequately reflected in government legislation, in regulations and in policy, it is absolutely essential that elected members from the constituencies, those who are actually accountable to people within constituencies, have the adequate tools and power to be able to present those views to members of this House.

What Premier Rae has done is something which he can get away with. The reason he can do it is that no one is watching. I think you can best judge people and governments on what they do when no one is looking, on what they do when there is not close scrutiny of legislation or regulations that they bring forward, because it is at that very time that it is their own principles, their own consciences that are ruling, as opposed to the reaction to news media reports or to the comments that might be forthcoming from constituents.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): Did you apply that principle—

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Durham West, order please.

Mr Bradley: It is most ironic that in all the years in this House, watching members of the New Democratic Party—particularly I think of icons such as Jim Renwick and others such as Patrick Lawlor and Stephen Lewis and even the former Leader of the Opposition, Bob Rae, who fought for the rights of the underdogs, who fought for the rights of individual members of the Legislative Assembly and who fought for the rights of the opposition—it is most ironic and it is most discouraging to see that the Premier of this province, who in his past days fought for these issues appropriately, I believed, and admirably, is in fact the

person who is responsible for beginning to diminish the powers of the elected members of this assembly.

By limiting members to 30 minutes of debate on any one issue—I must say I recognize that in terms of overall time allocation, there are going to be times when the government is going to decide after a lot of debate has taken place, after the Speaker has had an opportunity to determine how much debate is going to take place that a government may well apply time allocation. I recognize that. But what you are doing in effect is limiting members' opportunity to carefully assess, to carefully analyse and to carefully expose the provisions of pieces of legislation coming before the House.

It may be that there are members within a political party who have a lot more expertise, a lot more commitment and a lot more knowledge about a specific piece of legislation. Yet those persons are limited to 30 minutes while another person who does not have that same background, may not have that particular interest, is faced with the fact that he or she is limited to only 30 minutes.

Out there in the general public we know that issues come and go. The only way that an opposition can bring to the attention of the public the fact that there is important legislation before the House that has major consequences for our province, for the jurisdiction over which we rule, is by extending the debate, is by bringing out all of the issues. I don't mean by reading the telephone book, as happens in the United States Congress—in other words, delay for the sake of delaying. I don't mean by playing tricks. But what this does is it forces the opposition to simply engage in the kinds of theatrics that I don't think are productive to debate.

The reason is that unless we bring the House to a total standstill with some new procedural wrinkle, no one is going to pay attention to it. There will be no story about it. An editor will not accept from someone covering this House a story that doesn't have a confrontation or a new wrinkle to it. The only way that we can then let the people of this province know there's an important issue—and they can make the judgement after—is by having a lengthy and relevant debate on that issue. The limiting of individual members to 30 minutes is ludicrous in this regard.

I had a lot to say on the Confederation debate, on the constitutional goings-on that we've had in this province. I was told by the whip of this party, by the person in charge of speaking, that I could speak for 15 minutes. I must say I was insulted by the fact that with all of the issues that were before us in the referendum, an individual member would have 15 minutes. I suggested that someone else take my 15 minutes and utilize that as part of a lengthier speech.

That is exactly what happens in this House. The debate on significant issues is limited by the rules that this House has, and that's extremely important for those of us who are elected to do our jobs.

The other observation I have around this country is the continued concentration of power in the office of the Premier and in the people who advise the Premier and are not elected. I think if a government—any government, not just an NDP government—wants to know what the people of

this province are thinking, or any jurisdiction is thinking, the best basis is the Tuesday morning caucus meeting of the government side and the two opposition parties.

We are the people who go home to talk to our folks back there, to get the input on a direct basis—not just what people here in the capital think; not just what the senior members of the civil service think, although that's important and these are experts; not just what the people who surround the Premier think, and they are intelligent people and their viewpoints are very relevant to what's going on—but what individuals across the province think about the various issues that confront this Legislature.

So we see a concentration of power, through the rule changes, in the hands of Premier Rae or whatever premier follows Premier Rae, and those individuals who sit beside the Speaker and are in the Premier's office. They should have input, by all means. I hope the Premier enlists people from across Ontario and beyond our borders to advise him on many issues. But ultimately the responsibility for legislation and for governing should be in the hands of this House.

I'm concerned that the House is going to sit fewer days. You know, we don't sit that many days in any event. There's a long recess in the summer; there's a long recess over the winter months. Friday, Saturday and Sunday we have a chance to consult with our constituents to be aware of the issues that are confronting individual constituencies. It seems to me that when the House sits fewer days, the House has fewer days to carefully analyse the legislation coming before it.

Jonathan Manthorpe, when he wrote a book on provincial affairs, made the comment—and I don't agree with him, but let me tell you what he suggested—that we should abolish constituency offices. That's radical and I don't agree with it, but the reason he said that was that members have become, as he called them, “glorified social workers,” people who work on individual problems on a daily basis.

He suggested that the analysis of legislation, the analysis of policy and the debate of regulations was the loser as members concentrate more of their effort on individual case work. It's a difficult balance for all of us, but we must recognize that when any government brings in legislation, it has very significant ramifications for the province. When there's a policy change, when there's a regulatory change, it can impact upon the province in either a very positive or a very negative way.

1050

I think we should be concentrating our time as legislators on those kinds of issues, not simply leaving it to the so-called experts, because there's a lot of expertise in different fields that exists within the 130 constituencies that are represented in the Legislative Assembly.

I'm concerned as well that the role of the Speaker has been diminished. I think over the years—and I've observed four or five Speakers over the years—I have had respect for those Speakers. I haven't always agreed with their rulings, but I've had respect.

I remember Jack Stokes, for instance, when we were in a minority situation. One would have anticipated, if one

were observing political or partisan things out there, that Jack Stokes, being a New Democrat, would lean over backwards to support the opposition, and particularly his own party, the New Democratic Party. It didn't happen that way. He was a neutral in the chair. He was a very tough Speaker, and he was one who was very fair to members of the House.

I think we have to have a respect for the Speaker and the power and independence of the Speaker if this House is to operate appropriately. If we simply have a puppet or a stooge, which we haven't had, I'm pleased to say, while I've been a member of this House, if we simply have that sitting in the chair, or perhaps even worse, a person who has no power whatsoever, then I think the House declines in importance.

My observation of political affairs in this province over the years has been in fact that the legislative branch of government has diminished in importance, that this place isn't as important as it used to be. If you want to know why some members won't show up on certain days—and there are always good reasons why it happens, whether personal, government or business reasons. But if you want to know why, when there's a choice of being here or not, people won't be here, it's because in some cases they don't consider this place to be particularly relevant any more; that either they can politically benefit more by being back home in the riding or somewhere else, or in their own minds they simply feel they can be more effective somewhere other than this Legislature.

I think it's important for the government to be as accountable as possible. If we diminish the number of days that we sit, we diminish the opportunity of the opposition and backbench government members to question members of the executive branch of government, the members of the cabinet. I think in a democracy it's healthy that they be held accountable as often as possible; that there be a scrum, as it's called, or a gathering of the news people in the hallway to interview people who are from the cabinet and other places about the major issues of the day.

When you're a minister, you dread heading out into the hallway because you feel that perhaps there's an issue that you haven't dealt with, or an issue that you're perhaps weak on, but that's what keeps us sharp; that's what keeps us accountable. When sitting on the government side, if I know I have to face the opposition with potential questions, if I know I have to face the news media on a daily basis, I'm going to be much sharper as an individual. I'm going to keep much more on top of the issues than if there is not that sense of acute accountability that exists when this House is in session.

I would like to see the full powers of the Legislature restored. I don't agree with the rules which said opposition members should ring the bells for ever. It was a tactic. It works because when you turn on the 6 o'clock news and you hear the bells in the hallway and the news people say, "The bells are ringing," people know there's something happening at Queen's Park.

I hated that. I don't like having to do that as a member of the opposition. I don't like the reading of a number of lakes into the record, but that's been the only way the

opposition's had a chance to make its point. I think better it should be made in debate. I think the opposition members, if they cannot carry a relevant debate—some would call it a filibuster; I call it a lengthy and relevant debate—if they can't carry on their opposition in that way, then they can't carry out the responsibility appropriately.

I hope the government will reconsider, yet I have the fear that in the back rooms of the government, unbeknown perhaps to members of the Legislature who sit even on the government side, they are cooking up even more rule changes which will restrict and limit the powers of members of this House.

The member for Victoria-Haliburton has had some interesting and, I think, relevant suggestions, as have the member for Mississauga West and others who brought forward resolutions in this House on how individual members can be more effective, because there's a lot of talent in all of the benches. There are a lot of different backgrounds in the benches of the government and the opposition that can be helpful to debate.

I look at the committee system, and that can be much more effective. The member for Victoria-Haliburton has again suggested that the committee system can be much more effective and a less-partisan scene, although that's very difficult under present circumstances. We understand in this House there is going to be partisanship; we are elected as partisans and one might expect that.

I implore members of the opposition, in this case the governing side—as individuals, not as members of a government—to support this resolution, to send a signal to Premier Rae and to the government House leader and the chief government whip that they would like to see the changes; that if they are ever in opposition again, they would like to be able to utilize the rules to the full extent to ensure appropriate debate and proper representation in this assembly.

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): It's a pleasure to rise to speak this morning. It's been an interesting debate and I've listened to it with great care. However, I have some difficulty with the motion that has been presented to us. It would suggest, for example, that the problem in this House is the Premier. Unfortunately, that is just too narrow, too partisan and, quite frankly, wrong.

The problem in this House, I suggest to you, is the responsibility of every individual member of the House. It's the responsibility of the leadership of our various caucuses. I heard the opposition speak, for example, in terms of the government back rooms. Well, there are government back rooms, but there are opposition back rooms, and to suggest that machinations do not take place within opposition back rooms would be far from the truth.

There is no question indeed—and I only have a limited experience; I've only been here five years. I've had a few years in opposition; a couple of years now on the government benches. There is no doubt that there is frustration both in government in getting legislation through and in opposition in having one's voice heard. But I have watched with considerable admiration House leaders, my own House leaders, both in government and in opposition. I've watched the House leaders from the Liberal and

Conservative parties, the member for Bruce and the member for Parry Sound, knowledgeable and certainly wise in organized manipulation of procedures, and at the same time they can stand with righteous indignation and say, "You know it isn't working." Yet all House leaders have had a part, with the support of their caucuses, in the breakdown of the democratic process which would allow voices to be heard.

I suggest to you that the greatest tragedy of all is the lack of respect for the office and the Chair, for the Speaker of the House. It is extremely sad when the Speaker has to fight for control in a chamber where that control should be absolutely given by every individual member when a Speaker asks for order. Members on both sides of the House can take some responsibility and blame for this.

If we want this House to be truly effective, then we must cooperate with the authority and the direction of those we elect to sit in the chair. That, I suggest to you, from the constituents in Cambridge, from residents across this province—when they look at this chamber, it is not the manipulations of the House leaders and the various caucuses; it's not the directions laid down in terms of procedures by government. What is at stake? What is at stake when people tune into this place and in horror say, "Is that the way to conduct business?"

They're not talking about the fact that a member has 30 minutes to speak on a subject. I believe 30 minutes is more than ample to speak on a subject. What people see is a lack of respect for authority, and that authority, Mr Speaker, sits in your chair, and in any given question period you can come into this House and you can see that authority abused. It is too sad, but if all of us in opposition and in government could get our act straight and abide by the authority of the Chair, we would be far advanced.

1100

Mr Elston: It's pretty obvious that the government will shut us down on this again, and I don't say that I'm surprised. I know they don't want us to raise opposition to their policies and their programs.

The people who have spoken in opposition to this resolution have a hollow ring to the language they have used to construct their arguments. People who pretend that something is happening in here that approaches democratic activity are being unhappily fooled by their leadership. I cannot understand how these people can stand here and defend the elimination of the freedom of speech in this place.

I wish to thank the member for Carleton, the member for Parry Sound and particularly the member for St Catharines, people who have had long experience here and who have gone through both opposition and government time. While all of us experienced the frustration of not being able to resist the Davis government in the days it was in power, and while those of us in the Liberal Party witnessed the frustration of being a government that couldn't always get its legislation through in a timely fashion, none of us wished to replace the democratic institution we have with something which prides itself in pure, unadulterated efficiency for the passage of public policy.

Democracy is not about efficiency. Democracy is about allowing people, particularly the minority in this province, to speak out and have their minds and their feelings understood in their opposition. If it was the right of every member to stand in his or her place to speak for 30 minutes on any bill he or she chose, perhaps that would be helpful. But the new rules prevent that from ever happening. No member will ever be able to speak for 30 minutes if he or she happens to be the 35th member of the Liberal caucus. We have to allow the members the right.

The Deputy Speaker: The time allotted for the first ballot item has expired.

TAX REFORM

Mr Perruzza moved resolution number 32:

That, in the opinion of this House, whereas housing is a basic human right; and whereas our current property tax system is regressive and bears no relevance on ability to pay; and whereas successive, large, property tax increases have propelled property taxes to the highest levels ever; and whereas the unemployed, low-wage earners, pensioners and others on fixed incomes have great difficulty in paying their property taxes; therefore, priority should be given to reforming the property tax system by removing the education portion of property taxes and shifting the burden for education to a more progressive form of taxation.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 96(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I introduce this resolution here this morning because in my life as a politician, as a trustee on the school board, as a municipal councillor and now as a member of this Legislature, the single biggest issue people have taken up with me in my years in politics is precisely the issue of property taxes and their effect on people who can least afford to pay.

The property tax is generally seen and regarded as being a very regressive tax, a tax that essentially bears no relevance to ability to pay, a tax which is inherently unfair and quite frankly punishes the middle class of this province. It punishes very directly the middle-income earners and the low-income earners and people on fixed incomes and pensioners across the province.

I'd like to start off by putting the property tax in some kind of perspective. As you know, property tax in this province has been around since the province has been around, right from the first days of settlement in fact, and has progressed as such. It's traditionally paid for municipal services. It's traditionally paid for local school services as well.

But in recent years it has become abundantly clear to all parties and to former governments that this particular tax is very regressive and very difficult to deal with. We often hear the Progressive Conservatives talk about the good old days when they were in office in this province. Quite frankly, they tinkered with the property tax. They often tinkered with the education portion of the property tax: In 1969 they brought in their variable percentage grant

plan, in 1971 they introduced ceilings, and so on and so forth.

The reason why they kept tinkering and adjusting it was because you could never achieve any sense of fairness. There will always be inequities built into the system. There will be inequities between communities; there are inequities between municipalities; there are inequities between regions. In some areas more moneys have been spent on education; in some areas less moneys have been spent on education. They continually tried to make those kinds of adjustments, and quite frankly, that never worked.

We often hear the Progressive Conservatives talk about the good old days when, in 1975, the provincial share of education funding was at 61%. What that means is that education is essentially funded in two ways: One is through the local property tax base; the other is through provincial grants which try to offset some of the inadequate assessments across the province.

So in 1975 the former Progressive Conservative government funded education to the tune of 61%. Well, by the time they were booted out and by the time they left office in 1985, that share had fallen to 44%. What this means is that more of the burden, more of the emphasis was placed on the local property taxpayer.

The Liberals were no better, quite frankly, because when they came to office in 1985, between 1985 and 1990 what you had in the province was unprecedented growth. In fact, they had so much money coming into this place they were literally buried under it and they didn't know what to do with it. They threw it here, they threw it there, they threw it everywhere, but very little went to education, because during those very heavy growth years the education portion of property taxes across the province increased to the tune of 45.4%, as listed here in this document that's printed by the Ministry of Education.

So that was essentially the Liberal solution to the property tax quandary, to the property tax dilemma, and here we are. To backtrack a little bit, both parties did all the studies, did all of the research with respect to this particular issue. Going back to 1985, I have here the Report of the Commission on the Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education in Ontario, a report commissioned by the Progressive Conservatives and essentially handed over to our Liberal colleagues when they were the government.

1110

In this report the experts and the analysts spoke very clearly. I quote from the report from the experts. It reads:

"We recommend:

"24. That the government of Ontario introduce an education property tax credit program for residential and farm ratepayers and that the program be financed by an education tax on personal income."

Did the Liberals listen to this advice? No, because the Conservatives had received a similar kind of advice from their experts, advice which was left unheeded. Quite frankly, in 1990 the people in this province had enough of the Liberals as well and you know what happened to them.

In 1990, another further report commissioned again by our Liberal colleagues, a report entitled the Third Report of the Select Committee on Education. What did they do?

They did precisely what the previous analysts and experts did. They recommended that you move towards a more progressive form of taxation, that education be removed from property taxes because low-income earners, middle-class Ontarians, people on fixed incomes and pensioners couldn't pay the heavy increases in the education portion of the property tax.

I quote from the report, to quote just very briefly the experts:

"The local share is raised virtually entirely from property taxation, which is seen to be more regressive; falling more heavily on those with less ability to pay than income and other forms of taxation. The question then becomes: Are all citizens being asked to pay a fair share of the costs of education? Is education finance being raised in an equitable way?"

The answer is no; very clearly it's no. So further experts recommended that this be done. In fact, they have a recommendation here in the back and they say they recommend that:

"23. The minister should establish a task force to examine options to make the tax base for education funding more progressive."

They should have done that, but obviously, as you can see, it isn't something they moved on, and quite frankly I think Ontarians spoke loudly in 1990 and they said, "Enough is enough."

I say again that the education portion of property taxes is regressive. It unduly penalizes low-income earners, people on fixed incomes and middle-class Ontarians and seniors, and they haven't been able to deal with the successive property tax increases that have been heaped on them. Quite frankly, this problem will continue to grow.

So the question begs to be asked, why is it that the PCs didn't listen to the experts? Why is it that the Liberals didn't listen to the experts? Is it a question of money? It may have been. For the Liberals in 1985 to do what the reports and the experts have said would have cost them \$1.5 billion to phase in over a number of years. That wasn't excessive.

I think the issue for them was an issue of governance. They didn't want to deal with the sticky question of education governance. It's a tough question to deal with, there's no question, but I think that at some point someone's going to have to move in this direction. I think the issue of education governance is something that has to be dealt with. I think we have a responsibility to deal with it and we have a responsibility to move in this direction.

I'd like to conclude briefly, before I give my colleagues an opportunity to be able to debate and speak on this question, by saying that we have the studies, we have the experts and they have all spoken very clearly and very loudly. It's time to move now, and I ask my colleagues to accept these recommendations and move now in this direction.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I am pleased to rise today to participate in private members' hour to debate Mr Perruzza's resolution, which on the face of it repeats, as he pointed out, the recommendations of a number of studies over the course of a number of years.

His resolution, however, is very simplistic in light of that enormous work that has been done. It's simplistic because what Mr Perruzza has not acknowledged in this resolution is that if you remove one form of taxation or one form of revenue, you have to replace that with another. A resolution that comes forward after all the years and the studies of work that just says, "Only do one-half of the equation," is bordering on the deceptive to the people of this province, who would want to know what would be the implications of supporting this amendment.

I want to share with you, Mr Speaker, what I believe some of the implications of support for this amendment, in its present form, would be and why I believe it is wrong, premature, simplistic and irresponsible to support this amendment and this resolution in its present form.

The reason I believe this is that if you were to remove education from the property tax system—let's say you were moving to the personal income tax. You would have to raise the personal income tax rate in this province by 13%. That's what the shift would be. Imagine what an increase in personal income tax would do to those very people who the member opposite has expressed concern about: a 13% income tax increase for middle-income earners, a 13% income tax increase for seniors, a 13% income tax increase for people on fixed incomes.

Do you know why what he's suggesting is so impractical? Because without looking at what those implications are for those people, you don't take into consideration the fact that many of them pay their property taxes through their rent. How would you ensure their rents went down? You couldn't guarantee that. So not only would they see a 13% increase in their personal income tax rate, but they would probably be double hit because you couldn't guarantee that they would see a reduction in their property tax through their rent.

You start to now see the complications of this very simplistic resolution, well-meaning as it is, and I'm not questioning the member's motivation; I am questioning the approach he's taken because it is extremely simplistic.

I would also question this member because he's been ranting and raving about what previous governments did or did not do. I want to point out to him what his own government did in the area of tax reform. First, they set up a tax commission. They have sent to that tax commission a whole host of issues relating to how we are going to pay for the important and valuable services that the people of this province expect, need, demand and require.

They have sent to the tax commission the whole question of how we're going to fund education, and more than that, education finance. I think that is an appropriate referral, because I've come to the conclusion, after having spent five years in government, that maybe there are two or three people in the Ministry of Education who actually understand how we finance education; those funding formulas are so complicated.

Interjection.

Mrs Caplan: I see the member for Sault Ste Marie agrees that there might be three who understand. I certainly do not understand education finance. It is very complicated.

When you're looking at a system of funding, you also have to look at clarification of how it's financed, and a simplistic change in how you fund it may not have the result you expect it is going to have.

One of the other things his government did, while professing concern for those people who are having difficulty paying their property taxes, which he suggests are regressive, is that his government removed—hello, are you listening?—the seniors tax grant, the \$600 that was designed to help those people pay for their property taxes.

What you did was you turned it around. You took it from a grant to a tax credit. That tax grant was designed to give senior citizens relief in paying their property taxes. In the name of tax reform, you didn't do anything about that, but you did remove that tax grant. You took away that \$600. You changed it into a tax credit so that it is even more difficult now for some seniors who had relied on that grant to assist them in paying their education taxes, in paying their property tax bill.

I would say to you that your change from a tax grant to a tax credit was hurtful to some of the seniors of this province because at the same time you removed \$100 million overall from that program which the seniors of this province had relied upon.

1120

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): Hurtful to whom? Which ones?

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): No, it's not. Be fair.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mrs Caplan: I'm just laying out for the members of the government and this House the implications, the effects of their own programs. They don't like it, and I understand why—

Mr Wiseman: Be fair, Elinor. You've been briefed.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. When the speaker says "order," he expects the members to obey. These are the procedures of the House. I would ask you to respect that.

Mrs Caplan: I do understand that the members of the government caucus are feeling a little provoked. Certainly, the member for Downsview, when he raised this issue, had to expect that the record of this government would be discussed and debated at the same time as this important issue that is before us today.

I want to point out to the member as well that there are a number of programs in place that help senior citizens and medium- and low-income earners. A number of municipalities have what they call their loan program, and that gives people with equity in their homes an opportunity to borrow or put a lien on their property to pay their property taxes. That's especially helpful during this time of recession.

I know in the case of North York that is a no-interest loan that's payable and due when the house is sold. So there is no additional burden on the person. They get to use the equity they have in their home and it allows people to stay in their home rather than having to leave it and move on at a time in their lives when perhaps they would just

like to relax and enjoy their home environment and not have to think about moving.

How we are going to raise the revenues to pay for all these services becomes very important. I noticed just this week that when it came to a discussion of tax reform, this NDP government sent out a very mixed message to Metropolitan Toronto council.

They said, on the one hand: "We accept the fact that you are an autonomous, duly elected body that has responsibility for property tax reform. You should have the power, as every other municipality has, to change the way you levy your property taxes so that it will be fairer." We all know how unfair the present property tax system is in Metropolitan Toronto. "We are going to bring in enabling legislation to let Metropolitan Toronto proceed with its tax reform." Then the Minister of Municipal Affairs, in the same breath, said: "We, however, are going to tell you what we're not going to permit five years from now. We are going to tell you, Metropolitan Toronto, that we're not so crazy as to think we're going to be in government five years from now, and so we're going to make some political comments and send this back to you for further consideration as part of your legislation."

Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, that under Metropolitan Toronto's plan my constituents would benefit. Under Metropolitan Toronto's plan many of the people the member for Downsview has expressed concern about, those people who are middle- and low-income earners, senior citizens and tenants, would benefit, yet we've seen this government try to have it both ways. They talk about fairness, they talk about equity, they talk about tax reform, but when they realize the implications of what a specific proposal means, they get cold feet or they try to have it both ways on both sides of the issue.

That's why I believe Mr Perruzza's resolution is so misguided. You cannot have a thoughtful debate about how you are going to raise the revenues you need for the education of the children of this province unless you take a look at, "If you don't do this, what are you going to do instead?"

I would say to Mr Perruzza and to the members of this House that if you vote for Mr Perruzza's resolution, what you are saying is that a 13% provincial income tax increase is acceptable to you. What you're saying is that this kind of huge shift is acceptable to you. You haven't examined the burden or the implications or what that would mean, not only to individual taxpayers; you don't know what that would mean to the businesses, which also pay. Businesses also pay a very significant portion of education tax through the commercial assessment. What would you do about that, Mr Perruzza? Would you remove commercial assessment as well?

There are many, many questions that this resolution raises. It offers very few answers and I do not believe it is worthy of support. I believe it is simplistic and I also believe it is another example of a member of the NDP caucus saying one thing that sounds good—a lot of rhetoric and, frankly, a lot of hot air. When it comes to doing anything, they do nothing, or in fact they do the exact opposite of what they said they were going to do.

I will not be supporting this amendment. It is misguided and irresponsible.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. We normally follow the rotation, but if you allow Mr Sorbara to speak the last two minutes and twenty seconds, I will do so. Is there unanimous consent? Agreed.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Thank you. I appreciate the indulgence of the other members in the House.

I think this is one of the really significant resolutions that have appeared during private member's hour, and while I wouldn't agree with all of the preamble of the member for Downsview's motion, I simply want to put on the record that I support this initiative wholeheartedly. I think it is long overdue that this Parliament and the government of Ontario begin to look at the dramatic transformation of the taxation system that this implies.

I agree with my colleague the member for Oriole that not all of the pieces of the puzzle are present here in this resolution, but we need to start somewhere. Education is too important and too thoroughly a provincial responsibility to leave it as a matter to be put on the backs of property taxpayers.

Certainly, my colleague the member for Oriole is right that the property tax that individual citizens would pay would go down, and that those funds would have to be replaced from some other tax from some other source. My own recommendation is that in conjunction with this, we would undertake the first dramatic reform of the income tax system in the province of Ontario in years and years and years.

Yes, there are other problems involved there as well, because for the time being we use the federal tax base to determine what the rate of provincial income tax would be, at least for individuals, not for corporations. But the bottom line is, is it fair any longer to put the cost of education on the backs of property taxpayers?

My answer to that is no. I say it is high time to start to change that system, and I want to congratulate my friend the member for Downsview for bringing forward this resolution. I myself will be voting in favour of it. I hope that we see a large number of government members standing in their places and supporting this resolution, because that would send a clear message to the Minister of Education, who frankly has shied away over the past two years from all the big issues. This would get him out of his seat and into the arena where we really need reform.

Again thank you, Mr Speaker, for your indulgence in letting me speak at this time.

1130

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I'm glad to have the opportunity to speak to this resolution. On the surface, the resolution looks quite constructive and it appears quite positive. I'm just going to read the last part of the last sentence: "...priority should be given to reforming the property tax system by removing the education portion of property taxes and shifting the burden for education to a more progressive form of taxation."

On the surface it sounds great. All of us who pay such a major portion of our property taxes towards the cost of education couldn't help but think, "Well, this looks like a good idea," but that's where it ends. Unfortunately, that's where this resolution ends. It says "a more progressive form of taxation." It doesn't say what that form will be.

It is kind of interesting, I think, and probably significant, that this motion comes from a member of the current government, the current government that has raised taxes even more than the previous Liberal government did, the current government that continues to reduce its support for the cost of education at the local level.

The percentage of support from the provincial government to the local school boards has decreased to the point where this year it was a whole 1% increase over last year, but overall the proportion of support between the province and the local municipal taxpayers for the cost of education has been going in the wrong direction for the last seven years.

I will tell you that although the provincial average is 53% of the property tax for education, in the region of Peel and in the city of Mississauga that proportion is 62%. In Mississauga, 62% of our taxes go to the cost of education.

It's also of course really interesting to hear a member of the current socialist government say that the people of Ontario spoke loudly in 1990. If the member for Downsview thinks the people of Ontario spoke loudly in September 1990, all I can say to him is, he ain't heard nothing yet.

Wait till the people of this province speak loudly whenever this Bob Rae socialist government has the courage to call the next election, be it 1994 or 1995. There will be such a resounding statement by the people of this province at that time, when they say to the Bob Rae socialist government, "We have had it up to here. We are finished with the unnecessary taxation and cost-of-living increases in this province," which are directly attributable to this government.

I think it's terribly sad, and those members of his government who are laughing this morning will be laughing on the night of the election, because I hope they'll laugh instead of cry when, as my colleague the member from London likes to say, "They kissed their seats goodbye."

That's really what is going to happen to them, because the public understands very well when you change the rules for the property tax rebate for seniors. That's a very significant thing that took place with this government, just as it was equally significant when the former Liberal government added to the burden of the school boards the cost of employer health tax and reduced class sizes.

The Liberal government didn't go out and talk to any of the administrators or the school boards of our educational systems in this province and ask them if reduction of class size in grades 1 and 2 was a priority. They certainly didn't come to the region of Peel and speak to my school boards, where in the Dufferin-Peel separate school board almost half the students, 43%, are in portables and they already didn't have enough room for classes in the sizes we already had.

Those kinds of decisions have cost the taxpayers of this province million of dollars which they could not afford. The

irony is of course that when you change the rules down here in the ivory tower at Queen's Park and say, "Thou shalt do this, this and this in the school boards," which add to the cost of the education system across the province, they don't first go and talk to them and say: "Is this your priority? Is this your choice from your point of view?" Oh, no. The government down here mandates the programs, tries to make itself look good and then falls flat on its face when the reality hits that all it means is a heavier, increased burden to the property taxpayers.

I think it's important to place on the record that there are other provinces in this country which have the same responsibilities we have in Ontario and their governments seem to be able to provide a different level of support for the cost of education. That's significant for their property taxpayers, because they don't face the same burden we face.

In Quebec it's 91.1%; in British Columbia it's 80%; Prince Edward Island—you wouldn't think they would have an awful lot of money—pays 100% of education funding; in Newfoundland it's 95%; Nova Scotia, 80%; Manitoba, 71%; Alberta, 63%; and Saskatchewan, 51%. Isn't that significant, when we can't even struggle our way back up to 60% on average across this province, let alone the fact that it's less than 40% in the region of Peel. Pretty significant figures, I think.

Certainly, the position of our caucus is that we agree that the current education funding formula is clearly inequitable, complicated and places too much of the burden on the residential tax base. Our party strongly supports the need for a new funding formula based on the principles of equity and fairness.

I also would like to place on the record that the impact of this resolution of the member for Downsview, if in fact it were to become a policy of his government, which is highly unlikely of course, is that it would require a 17% increase in provincial income taxes.

One other thing that I think should be said here this morning, because I totally support it, is that in addition to other positions by our party on this subject, we have endorsed the idea of unified school boards. The unified school board model would allow the public and separate boards to maintain their curricula and programs, but they would share administrative support services. Cost savings could be achieved in the areas of transportation, purchasing and administrative overhead.

Our party is committed to a full review of the education finance system. We will be developing a position in conjunction with the work of the Fair Tax Commission on this issue. Obviously, when we look at the situation as it exists today, it cannot continue. We are taxing people out of their homes. They've finally—I'm particularly speaking of seniors—reached the point where they've eliminated their mortgage and they can't afford to keep their homes because they can't afford the property taxes.

The property tax burden is a direct reflection of the downloading from the provincial government, particularly the last two provincial governments, on to the local municipalities and school boards. That situation cannot continue. It is totally unjust and unfair. I will support any

changes that we can help to bring about where we can have a more equitable system for funding the educational cost in this province. I would like to leave the balance of my time to my colleague the member for Simcoe East.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Cambridge.

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I'm happy to speak today on the resolution of my friend the member for Downsview concerning property tax reform. It's a private member's resolution and it may not be framed in the context in which I would have placed it myself. Nevertheless, as an individual member, I will support his resolution.

1140

Members of this House are aware that work is currently being done with regard to property tax reform by the Treasurer's Fair Tax Commission and through the Ministry of Education's education finance reform project. Once the work is completed by the ministry's reform project group, the Minister of Education will then be in a position to prepare options for a new framework for funding of elementary and secondary education in Ontario and to bring these suggestions forward for consideration.

We do not know what those options will be at this stage. In this respect, I would like to speak on tax reform regarding education. Currently, our funding system for elementary and secondary education is based on a 1968 model that is based on two principles: first, equality of educational opportunity for all pupils in Ontario and, second, equality of tax burden on local ratepayers.

This model is not adequate to reflect the educational system that is in place today as the two principles are no longer being met. Therefore, a new funding framework must be developed. The present model does not address equality in the tax burden on local ratepayers, nor does it address the requirements of equality in education for all Ontario students.

It is a fact that in 1976 the provincial share of education expenditures was 60%. Today it is much lower, standing at 39%. The reason for the decrease in cost-sharing by the ministry is not, however, because of cutbacks, but rather because school board budgets increased faster in the past 10 years than provincial grants and the consumer price index.

In 1991-92 expenditures by school boards were \$12.7 billion. Of this the province provided \$4.9 billion, and the remainder was raised through local taxes on residential property, commercial property and businesses. This year the total expenditures are estimated to be close to \$14 billion. Reform of the current system of tax collection is necessary, but the solution is not easy and the task cannot be taken lightly, nor can we expect quick-fix solutions. This is not the style nor the approach of this government. Tax reform and education finance is extremely complicated. We must take the necessary time to fully explore all the implications of such reform.

It will, however, be achieved through a partnership, the true cooperation of all involved. School boards, the province, municipalities, parents and community organizations must work together, and we must keep in mind that we all

share the same goal, to provide the best possible education for our children in a healthy learning environment.

Along with education finance reform, the Fair Tax Commission is looking at the entire property tax system. Any changes or reforms of either must coincide so that tax changes are fair to everyone, to both the property taxpayers and indeed all taxpayers.

In concluding, I just want to note that in bringing forward this resolution, the member for Downsview continues an approach that he has taken in this House of being logical, thoughtful and sensitive in areas that require reform. He's to be commended for his resolution.

He will be encouraged by the fact that property tax reform is currently under review through the Treasurer's Fair Tax Commission and the Ministry of Education's education finance reform project. Members of his riding and property taxpayers across Ontario will appreciate his efforts to promote fairness and equity for property taxpayers and will no doubt applaud his initiative. The member for Downsview sets a good example, a good role model for all members of the House.

The Deputy Speaker: There are six minutes left, I believe, for the member for Simcoe East.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I'm pleased to take part in this debate this morning dealing with this resolution with regard to removing the education portion off the property tax bill.

For many years I have indicated that the tax portion on many property tax bills has been a burden on many people in this province, and especially on our seniors who have lived in their homes for many years and have sat there and are paying property taxes and have seen this education tax increase. It's really put a lot of seniors in a position where they may have to sell their homes.

In debating this resolution this morning, I want to relate back to an item I read with regard to the Agenda for People, "Restoring Education Funding/Property Tax Relief." This is the very issue we're talking about here this morning, and this is what the Premier said:

"The Liberals like to talk about international competitiveness and preparing for the next century. Yet they've broken their promise of 60% funding for elementary and secondary schools, putting the squeeze on quality education and property taxes.

"New Democrats propose raising the provincial share of education costs to 60% over five years, providing a solid base for a better education system and lifting some of the load of property taxes.

"The cost of this initiative over the next two years would be \$1.5 billion. That's also \$1.5 billion in property tax relief for Ontarians. We want to reverse the punishing increases in property taxes which hit seniors and low-income people especially hard."

That's this very same government that on August 19, in its Agenda for People, when running for election against David Peterson's Liberals, made this promise, made this commitment on property tax funding.

What we have here this morning is a backbencher from this government bringing in a resolution to remove the

taxes of education off the property tax. I find this an unacceptable type of legislation to be dealing with when they made a promise, they made a commitment, of 60% funding to be restored within five years, and in essence it has gone down. What types of games are these people playing with the taxpayers of this province?

Sure, I agree with the resolution with regard to reducing the property taxes. As I've indicated, there are many people out there who find it an extra burden on the property taxes. Then we look at the budget of the ministry of the Treasurer with regard to the seniors' tax grants and how they have been changed. We look at the costs and the increased levies they are allowing the municipalities to charge, thereby increasing the cost of housing in this province. And that's part of this resolution: "whereas housing is a basic...right." That's what we agree with. But this resolution, in putting these issues forward, is very contradictory to what they said when they were running for election. I find it hard to accept, when this government indicated with regard to education taxes how it wanted to increase the levy, what the province pays, back to 60%. In essence, it has gone down.

You know something? We sat here, and yesterday the Minister of Education made the announcement he's going to make an announcement today of what's going to happen with regard to the capital funding. What should have been announced back six months ago is being announced today.

We find it difficult to look into all the aspects of the effects of this, removing this property tax with regard to education. It's been indicated this morning that 17% would have to be added on to the income tax. But there's got to be a better way, there's got to be more accountability in the whole education system in the province of Ontario.

Some members have indicated that Bill Davis and the government previously brought in the full funding for the separate schools. We all know that Trudeau and Chrétien brought the Constitution home, and in that Constitution it said, "There shall be two fully funded school systems," those being the Protestant school system and the Catholic school system. Bill Davis was right in what he did, because that was in the Constitution. He had no choice, because if it had gone to the Supreme Court of Canada, he would have been challenged and he would have lost. He did what he thought was right in the interests of the taxpayers of this province and for the education system of this province.

There are many people sitting over here now, chirping away, who don't know what happened within the Constitution. They don't realize what's going on with regard to the education system. We know what's happening. We know there was a promise made of 60% funding and we have now seen this promise has been broken.

1150

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): The economy and taxes are the two key issues in the province today. Last week I had a chance to speak with a lot of my constituents, and those are the two key issues.

I commend the member for Downsview for bringing a proposal for some reform of property taxes. This has al-

ways been an issue in my riding, and until we address it, it will always be an issue. In my riding, the seniors are upset. In my riding, the people on fixed incomes are upset. They claim and they feel that the amount of taxes they pay on their property is too much, it's just too high. They can't afford it any more and they're losing their homes. This gives us some hope.

I can tell you, when I came to this Legislature this morning, I felt there was no way that anybody in this Legislature could vote in opposition to this particular resolution, but after chatting to some of my colleagues in the House, I find there is a possibility that some people may turn their backs on these seniors. They may turn their backs on these individuals on fixed incomes who cannot afford their property taxes.

I want to make it very clear that's what you're going to do if you vote in opposition to this resolution. How could you possibly live with yourselves in turning your backs on those seniors who are on fixed incomes and who can't afford their property taxes? How could you possibly live with yourselves if you vote against this resolution?

It gives us some hope, and hope is what the people of Ontario want at this point. The economy and taxes are the two key issues. This addresses one of them. Actually, it addresses both of them; they're both tied in.

You are going to hear a lot of argument from those who perhaps have a little more money than some of us. The ability to pay taxes, a system that would allow for that, has never been high on the priority list for those who have money, those who are going to have to pay a little bit more in taxes, but it's fair. I commend the member for Downsview for having enough guts and enough stamina to put up with those arguments.

I share the same area pretty much that the member for Downsview shares, and I know a lot of the problems he is encountering I encounter as well in Yorkview. We're side by side. I can tell you that property taxes are—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would you please keep your conversations down.

Mr Mammoliti: I don't know why people don't want to listen to this very important speech.

As I was saying, I can tell you that property taxes in our two communities, mine and Downsview, is the key issue. A change in property tax would provide some hope for those in our communities.

I urge every one of you in this Legislature today to vote in favour of this resolution. I urge all the backbenchers, all the MPPs in this Legislature, those who aren't paying attention at this point as well, to vote in favour of this resolution. It's important. I hope this goes through.

Mr Marchese: I stand to support the resolution introduced by Mr Perruzza as a very good resolution, and I want to make four points.

The first one is to agree with Mr Sorbara, the member for York Centre, who has taken a very balanced and reasonable position on this. We do not always agree, but on this particular issue I have to say we agree. That's my first point.

The second point has to do with the current tax system. The current tax system, as the resolution says, is a very regressive one. It's regressive because it's not based on ability to pay. It bears no relevance to their ability to pay, as when we speak of seniors and when we speak of people who are on low income. We have situations of people living next door to each other, one making \$200,000 a year or \$100,000 a year and someone making only \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year, paying the same amount of taxes. That's how unfair the current tax system is, and that is why we need to be able to change it.

It's true, as some members have said, like the member for Oriole, that there are some concerns. They are legitimate and they have to be addressed. She says, for example, that some tenants, who would be paying income tax if we change from the current system to an income tax system, would continue to be paying income tax, but would they be able to get their rebate once property taxes went down, once we've removed the education portion? She correctly raises a good point. We would have to make sure, once we have worked the details out, that that is addressed, and I agree with her.

There are other issues of governance, and it is true that if we collected income tax, there may be no reason for boards of education to exist, and we would have to look at that. It has serious implications in terms of income tax concerns, governance concerns and concerns for tenants, and they have to be addressed. But let's not confuse the principle or the concept of this resolution with the form or detail of the principle. As Mr Sorbara says, the pieces will come later.

Mrs Caplan, the member for Oriole, raises another interesting concern. She says we've removed the tax grant for seniors now and we've shifted to a tax credit, and she suggests by it that we will hurt seniors. I question not only the veracity of her remarks but also the honesty of her remarks.

What we have done is very consistent with a principle similar to the kind of motion that we put forth. What we're saying is that those seniors who are making \$23,000 or less will continue to have the \$600, and in fact in most cases they'll be making a lot more. Is that inconsistent with the kind of resolution we have here? Absolutely not. In fact, we're saying consistently that those who have less should be getting more.

As a concluding remark, I want to say that we want our government to address the issue of education funding reform and begin in a gradual way to achieve equality and equity for those who have the least.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Downsview, you have two minutes, plus whatever remains.

Mr Perruzza: I'd like to pick up once again very briefly where I left off. The point was made by one of my Liberal colleagues, the member for Oriole—and she spoke very directly to this particular issue; that is, the issue of removing education from property taxes, getting the burden of education off the backs of middle-income earners, middle-class Ontarians, seniors, people on fixed incomes and low-wage earners. She talked about the difficulties this

would pose, because if you did this, you would somehow have to go to some other form of revenue and find the same amount of money.

To put that in perspective, what that says is that we cannot move away from a regressive form of taxation because we raise X amount of money and therefore we would have to go to another, more progressive form of taxation and raise exactly the same amount of money. That's the argument. That's the point that the member for Oriole was trying to make.

What this says to me very directly is that what she's talking about is, "Let the poor pay not in proportion to their income, not in proportion to their abilities, but in proportion to the house that they need to live in, that they must live in." That's what the member for Oriole is saying. What she is saying is: "Don't make it progressive, don't touch the top wage earners, don't touch the fat cats, my friends, because if you go after them and they are making \$100,000 a year, \$500,000 a year, \$1 million a year, their share is exactly the same as that individual or that family which is making \$40,000, \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year in combined income." That's what the member for Oriole, my Liberal colleague, is saying, and I find that obscene. I find that kind of argument, that kind of rhetoric coming from my Liberal friend totally unacceptable.

She talked about tenants. How do you ensure and how do you secure that you give back to tenants any scale-back, any reduction in the property tax portion they must bear? You only need to go through the reports. You only, I say to my Liberal friend, read the reports you commissioned. It's in here. You can do it a number of ways. One of the most direct is just simply giving them a rebate. Send them a cheque. We have the facilities in the Ministry of Revenue. We have the high-tech computers. Calculate what their portion is, how much they've paid, and send them back a cheque. That's simple enough. It's not as convoluted and as complicated as she would make us believe.

My Conservative friends' classic argument is, "Raise the provincial share to 60%." Well, doing that doesn't lower the property tax rate that people can't afford to pay.

I will not yield, I will not bend on this issue. I hope many of my colleagues do essentially the same and I hope that we do not rest until the task at hand is done.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for private members' business has expired. Will the members please take their seats.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Oriole, I would ask you to refrain from talking.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item number 32, standing in the name of Mr Elston. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: I'll wait. When you're ready I'll continue.

Mr Elston has moved private member's resolution number 31. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Please take your seats. Pursuant to standing order 96(f), the recorded vote on this ballot item is deferred.

TAX REFORM

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will now deal with ballot item number 31, standing in the name of Mr Perruzza. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise?

Mr Perruzza has moved private member's resolution number 32. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. I declare the motion carried.

Call in the members for a vote on ballot item number 32; a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1205 to 1210.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Will the members please take their seats. Mr Elston has moved private member's resolution 31. All those in favour of the

motion will please rise and remain standing until their names are called.

Ayes

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carr, Cousens, Cunningham, Eddy, Elston, Fawcett, Jordan, Kormos, Mahoney, Marland, McLean, Miclash, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Runciman, Sola, Sorbara, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

The Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will rise and remain standing until their names are called.

Nays

Akande, Carter, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Farnan, Fletcher, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Klopp, Lessard, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mills, Morrow, O'Connor, Perruzza, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Wessenger, White, Winninger, Wiseman, Wood.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 27, the nays 31.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 27; the nays are 31. I declare the motion lost.

All matters relating to private members' business have been completed. I will now leave the chair and the House will resume at 1:30.

The House recessed at 1214.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1331.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CHILD CARE

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I stand here today to ask the Minister of Community and Social Services to intervene before it is too late.

The Community Network of Childcare Programs is a non-profit, community-based organization that has worked closely with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This organization is providing essential, cost-effective support for members of the city of North York child care community. The CNCP has been a great help to the community-based, non-profit child care system in North York. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has benefited from CNCP, as well as the citizens of Ontario.

It's for this reason that I was alarmed to hear that the ministry has not yet committed to continue to support CNCP for 1992-93. CNCP will not be able to survive on its current membership fees and fund-raising revenues alone. They're not in a position to ask their members to provide more funds. It's imperative that CNCP receive a commitment to continue funding in order not to jeopardize the important services that ensure quality child care is provided in Ontario. CNCP provides services to child care centres which are funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

They're not asking for new money. They're simply asking for security and a commitment to what they have. Time is running out. Action must be taken. Please, Minister, intervene and do not betray your commitment to non-profit child care support.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): It's with some regret that I must again draw attention to the silly and harmful behaviour of bureaucrats who are attacking agriculture again in this province.

In recent weeks, Ministry of Health bureaucrats have been charging cheese plants for not refrigerating cheese curds immediately upon manufacture. Anyone knows that cheese curds, for as long as cheese has been made in this country, have not been refrigerated, and curds are meant to be eaten fresh and squeaky. In fact, modern science tells us that the lactic acids produced in cheese curds at room temperature kill harmful bacteria that would actually grow if curds were refrigerated, another example where plain common sense does not prevail.

Unfortunately, the fact that traditional measures are safer and have been proven safer means nothing to the bureaucrats working for the Ministry of Health. These bureaucrats play God, and nothing changes their opinion. Ontario's milk and cheese producers are being forced to absorb unnecessary court costs in order to defend themselves against these irresponsible and ill-informed bureaucrats who are allowed to run loose.

If the Minister of Health is looking at ways to trim her budget, I can point out that these so-called inspectors are the first ones she should be cutting. No matter what the excuse is, there is no legitimate reason why these charges should have been laid before any reasonable and sane investigation. Cheese curds are made to be eaten fresh.

ZIGMUNT SOJKA

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I rise today to inform the House of the death and life of one of the greatest environmentalists my riding has produced: Zigmunt Sojka, known better as Ziggy. My friend died November 5 at the age of 74.

Less than two years ago Ziggy received an Ontario Senior Achievement Award in recognition of his brave fight to save our environment. Ziggy, a resident of Fenwick, was president and founding member of the Niagara Residents for Safe Toxic Waste Disposal, a citizens' group which today continues to battle Ontario Waste Management Corp's bid to construct a toxic waste treatment plant in west Lincoln.

Under Ziggy's leadership, the citizens' group successfully lobbied municipal, regional and provincial governments. Ziggy was smart in his fight against the OWMC. He refused to use a negative approach. Instead, he suggested positive alternatives. Newspapers throughout Niagara have written colourful stories on Ziggy and his crusade against OWMC, a crown corporation created a decade ago by the Progressive Conservative government of Bill Davis.

A native of Poland, Ziggy immigrated to Canada from England in 1954 with his wife, Sheila. Ziggy's four children were raised to be "environmentally friendly."

Ziggy was an active and well-liked member of his community. Prior to his retirement he was a boat builder, construction worker, carpenter, farmer and store owner. He was a soccer coach, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, an active member of the St Catharines District Labour Council and an active member of my riding association.

It is individuals like Ziggy who make Ontario a wonderful province in which to live. He'll be missed dearly by those who knew him and those who will be fortunate enough to live in a cleaner, safer world because of him.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): It's really a sad day when the NDP government is forced to dredge up two-year-old announcements in an effort to generate good economic news. Witness this week's declaration by the Premier in Asia that because of his visit, Japan's Kubota had decided to expand its Orillia plant to the tune of \$10 million. The Treasurer stood up in this House and said that this is why Bob Rae went to Asia.

Well, the Premier and the Treasurer should have searched back a little bit in their clipping files, because Kubota made this announcement two years ago. They made the announcement before this government's string of \$10-billion deficits; they made it before its changes to the labour law; they made it before the NDP government destroyed this

economy with its foolish economic policies. But the Premier is still trumpeting this news as if it happened just this week.

With 547 jobs disappearing every working day in the province of Ontario, Bob Rae should have stayed home in Ontario and not tried to stage-manage this old news to justify his junket to Asia. The Premier should stay here, should be talking to the people at General Motors, to the people at Ford, to the people in this province about their economic future instead of going over there and bringing out old news, trying to pretend that he's made some major coup and misleading the people of this province.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The Interim Waste Authority will announce the dump short list tomorrow, and this will continue the unwelcome process of locating three megadumps in York, Durham and Peel started by Bob Rae and Ruth Grier.

There will be no rejoicing. What the IWA and the government are doing is wrong.

Bill 143 takes away property rights and legal rights of individuals and municipalities. It's wrong because it's touching on environmentally sensitive lands and prime agricultural lands. It's wrong because the government refuses to look at other options such as rail haul or incineration. It's wrong because submissions to the IWA were denied after August 6. It's wrong because the boundaries are limited to the greater Toronto area. It's wrong in so many ways.

But, I'll tell you, we will not surrender. The people in York, Durham and Peel will not give in to this government.

Front 1 will be against the government itself. We will have a political battle against Bob Rae and Ruth Grier. The garbage queen of this earth will be run off it. This government will be put to ashes. We will not allow these government policies to be initiated.

The second front will be a technical front on the IWA itself, to make the IWA examine all the facts. The people out there are ready for battle. We've had two months' rest while they've been putting this together, and when we start into this, the people will triumph and this government will fall, and one of the reasons it will fall in 1995 is because of its dump policy, its garbage policy—and all its policies are garbage as well.

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EVENTS IN OXFORD

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I'd like to comment, on a more positive note, about two key events that I attended during constituency week.

The first one was on the weekend. I attended the third annual Monte Carlo night put on by the Princeton Optimist Club. I should say that the Princeton Optimist Club has been in existence for only three years but in that time it has been very active in serving the needs of the community. I was very pleased to be at the Monte Carlo night and to make the draw on the raffle for a brand-new truck. I was very pleased to do that, and the winner lives in the village of Princeton. The Optimist Club continues to do very good work in that

community and the community was certainly out in full support. I want to congratulate all the organizers of that.

The second event I attended on the weekend was the opening of the new facility by the Good Beginnings Day Nursery. They have been able to finally, after moving around from many temporary sites, find a permanent site at the old Berean church on Devonshire Avenue in Woodstock.

The Good Beginnings Day Nursery has a very strong reputation of providing good quality day care for the community. It is a non-profit day care centre, operated mainly by the parents of those individuals. These two examples show, when people put a great deal of dedication in, what they can accomplish in the community of Oxford.

LANDFILL

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): His worship the member for Markham made a statement with respect to the Interim Waste Authority and the list that will be released tomorrow. I say to members that the Minister of the Environment has again misrepresented the situation; these sites will not be interim at all. They will have a lifespan of at least 20 years. The interim sites that belong to this minister are the expanded sites at Keele Valley and Britannia.

The news that's going to be made tomorrow has many communities in the region of York, Durham and Peel shuddering with dread. Many of the groups were formed to fight this government's heavy-handed, dart-board, ill-advised, non-sensical, absolutely outrageous selection process and they're gearing up for another round of rallies and demonstrations, the likes of which Mrs Grier, as Minister of the Environment, has never seen nor ever could have contemplated.

I want to remind members and the minister that she has only herself to blame for the incredible chaos that exists in the regions. It's her own fault that she's now commonly referred to not as the Minister of the Environment but as the minister of garbage.

The minister's Interim Waste Authority promised residents who live in the vicinity of potential dump sites that they would have at least two days' warning before the short list was announced. None of the residents had that warning and had no idea that the list would be announced until they read the government's PR spin as reprinted in this morning's Globe and Mail.

Residents and citizens groups feel betrayed once again. They feel let down by this government. That PR spin, reprinted, talks about Mrs Grier as an ardent environmentalist—an environmentalist, I say, who has betrayed the trust of the people of this province, who has violated every fundamental environmental principle as she has started this terribly ill-advised, absurd process.

NORTHERN HEALTH TRAVEL GRANTS

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I rise to once again bring the matter of the northern health travel grant program to the attention of the Minister of Health.

As the minister is aware, there are three requirements which Ontario residents must meet in order to qualify for this program. First, the applicant must live in an area designated as part of northern Ontario, for the purposes of the

program. The second requirement is one of distance. The third requirement dictates that the general practitioner who refers the resident for specialized medical treatment must be a northern physician.

As a result of the third requirement, there are still some residents in the district of Parry Sound who are being denied access to the program. I have held several discussions with the Minister of Health regarding this matter.

I do want to recognize the fact that it's under her supervision that changes have been made to the program allowing most Parry Sound residents eligibility for the program. However, the third requirement still prevents some Parry Sound constituents from receiving specialized medical treatment because they are ineligible for the program.

The situation has been further exacerbated by the closing of the Burk's Falls and District Hospital and the recent death of Dr Bev Hallam. Many residents of the southeastern part of the riding must now travel to Huntsville in the district of Muskoka in order to consult a general practitioner. These residents are barred from participating in the northern health travel grant program.

The minister has been reviewing this regulation for close to a year now and I believe sufficient time has passed to allow the ministry to come to a decision on this matter.

SHAW FESTIVAL

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I rise today to congratulate the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake on its record-breaking 1992 season. Members will have received a press release from the Shaw Festival outlining details of its success, and I would just like to take a few moments to highlight some.

The Shaw Festival was so successful this year it broke all previous records set for paid attendance, with almost 279,000 people taking in this season's performances. This represents an increase of more than 33,000 tickets over 1991.

The Shaw is clearly a cultural force in Canada and indeed in North America, and for the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake it holds special significance as one of the town's principal employers and as a leading tourist attraction.

Most recently, the chamber of commerce paid tribute to the Shaw by naming it the Business of the Year in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While the company as a whole is responsible for this success, I feel certain individuals must be singled out and congratulated for their outstanding efforts. These individuals include the artistic director, Christopher Newton; the administrative director, Elaine Calder; the marketing director, Anne Trites; and the publicity manager, B.J. Armstrong.

It is indeed a tribute to the administrative and artistic creativity of the Shaw Festival that it would achieve its most successful season to date in some of the worst economic times we have experienced in decades. After such an outstanding year, the people behind the Shaw have certainly earned their moment in the spotlight. If you missed the 1992 season, join us for 1993.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon a former

member from the riding of Port Arthur, who's seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr Jim Foulds. Welcome to our gallery.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK ASSISTANT AND CLERK OF COMMITTEES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It is my great pleasure to announce to you today the appointment of Mrs Deborah Deller as clerk assistant and clerk of committees in replacement of Mr Smirle Forsyth, who resigned recently for health reasons.

Mrs Deller has worked for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in various capacities since 1979, and we all wish her the best of good fortune in her new responsibilities. I would ask members to welcome her to her new position.

Interjections: Speech.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, I'd like to move unanimous consent that Ms Deller be given 30 minutes to address the Legislature.

The Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Agreed.

The Speaker: I don't know, from the table.

Mrs Marland: But the Clerk doesn't know that.

The Speaker: Not normally.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): That's not normal? When has that ever stopped us?

PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I must say before beginning a ruling that the normal courtesy of providing a ruling only when the member who rose to his or her feet to bring a point of order to the attention of the Speaker has been set aside at the request of the member for Ottawa South, as he expressed to me that he felt the ruling was more important than his particular attendance. With your indulgence, we set that courtesy aside.

On Tuesday, November 17, 1992, the member for Ottawa South (Mr McGuinty) rose on a question of privilege concerning developments arising out of the proceedings that occurred at a meeting of the standing committee on resources development during its consideration of a matter designated pursuant to standing order 125. The member for Bruce (Mr Elston), the member for Parry Sound (Mr Eves) and the member for Carleton (Mr Sterling) also spoke to this matter.

At the outset, I want to remind the House of previous rulings related to proceedings in committee. The Speaker cannot rule on a procedural matter that occurs in any committee of this Legislature unless the request to do so comes by way of a report from that committee. As Speaker Edgihoffer indicated at page 44 of Hansard for March 21, 1990, "Matters arising out of the proceedings before committees should be settled in the committee, and only if a report comes forward from the standing committee to the House dealing with the member's question of privilege could this matter be studied by the Speaker." This has been our practice both before and since that time.

I have to say, then, that a prima facie case of privilege has not been made out.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to clarify the procedures with respect to the issue raised by the member for Ottawa South.

Members will know that there is a well-defined procedure for the issuance of a Speaker's warrant and that the requirements of section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act must be met before the Speaker exercises a discretion to issue a warrant.

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Section 35 of the act states that:

"(1) The assembly may at all times command and compel the attendance before the assembly or a committee thereof of such persons, and the production of such papers and things, as the assembly or committee considers necessary for any of its proceedings or deliberations.

"(2) When the assembly requires the attendance of a person before the assembly or a committee thereof, the Speaker may issue a warrant directed to the person named in the order of the assembly requiring the person's attendance before the assembly or committee and the production of papers and things as ordered."

The process to be followed under this section of the act is very straightforward. When a person refuses to attend the proceedings of a committee, the committee may, upon the passage of a motion, report to the House its request for the issuance of a Speaker's warrant. The House must then adopt the report of the committee before the Speaker may act.

Section 35 clearly requires that it is the assembly that may command and compel the attendance of a witness before a committee and that if the assembly requires such attendance, the Speaker may issue a warrant. The Speaker cannot issue a warrant at the request of a single member of the assembly or even at the direct request of a committee. The Speaker may only exercise a discretion to issue a warrant upon the passage of a motion in this House.

On occasion, the assembly has delegated its authority in this regard to a committee. Such was the case when the subcommittee of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly was authorized by an order of the House dated December 19, 1991, to request the issuance of a warrant by the Speaker without the intervening step of making a report to the assembly.

Even under standing order 125, decisions such as those concerning the issuance of a Speaker's warrant require the adoption of a motion first by committee and then by the House.

Members will realize that passing motions either in committee or in the House is the only way that the House can express itself. In our parliamentary system, a motion is adopted or rejected upon the counting of a majority either in the affirmative or negative. Therefore, I can only repeat that the correct procedure in this case has been followed and that there is nothing that the Speaker can do on his or her own initiative, first of all because it's a matter arising out of proceedings in committee and secondly because the motions necessary to initiate this process were not passed.

I thank all the honourable members for their contributions.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order.

The Speaker: Point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: Dealing with your ruling just made, Mr Speaker, I would ask that you provide us with some direction in writing as to what your ability is now to protect the rights of the minority in fulfilling their obligations or allowing them to have their obligations fulfilled under the standing orders.

As I had raised the issue with you yesterday, effectively we're given the right under the standing orders to have a 125 in committee, but the number of government members in committee can now overrule the minority, ie, the opposition, and kill the intent of the standing order. I require, I guess, some clarification or understanding as to how the standing orders are to be carried out if the will of the majority on the committee is always allowed to kill any opportunity of bringing people in front of the committee for the purpose of fulfilling the obligation this Legislative Assembly has to do a 125 motion at the behest of the minority.

The two items I need some clarification on from you are (1) when and how does the Speaker intervene to make sure that the minority can have the obligations that the standing orders, at least *prima facie*, place on the government to allow us to have some say in committees, and (2) at what stage can you intervene to make sure that we have some abilities that are not always overridden in this assembly by the majority?

I would appreciate that clarification, because there is no way now, at any time, that we can carry out the intent of the standing orders as initially amended by this House, not just by this government but in our time and now as subsequently re-amended. That's my first one.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, I understand the concern he expresses. There is nothing in what has happened which is in violation of the standing orders, and that's very clear.

What the member speaks of, however, is something which was contained in his last sentence, ie, the intent. The intent is something which a committee will have to wrestle with to determine whether its own proceedings are something the committee is comfortable with. All your Speaker can do for you is to ensure that the standing orders are adhered to, and that's precisely what was looked into.

The member will know full well that in a majority Parliament, whenever there's a vote, there is always the possibility that the majority will prevail and the majority vote will determine the outcome of a subject.

I understand the frustration the member expresses. I must say to the member that the matters that arise in committee must be dealt with in committee. If members want changes to the committee system, that has to be addressed as well in our standing orders. They need to be changed if that's the intent of the member's submission. Indeed, from time to time, parliaments do take a look at their committee system and initiate parliamentary reform. That may be of interest not only to the honourable member for Bruce but to other members in this assembly.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, my second point of order has to do with some events yesterday evening, getting close to

6 o'clock. It's with regard to the use of language by one of the speakers for the New Democratic Party.

I stood on a point of order—I haven't got the words here; I meant to bring them with me—when the opposition was accused of telling untruths in this House. I raised the issue with the Speaker at the time and he said that because no particular member was identified, it was not unparliamentary. I then interjected, I believe quite wrongly, but I did it anyway to provoke the issue, and said that the government members lied. That clearly was unparliamentary, but I did not identify any particular member in accordance with the ruling given by the Speaker who was then in the chair. There was no difference in that regard in the two statements made, both by the speaker from the New Democratic Party, who accused us of lying, and me when I accused the government of lying.

My view is that we have to clarify what's going to take place in here. Both myself, the member for Bruce, and the member for Etobicoke West were called to order by the Speaker, as I think he should have rightly called us to order, who asked us to withdraw. We withdrew. But the ruling was that the member across the way could call the opposition collectively liars and get away with it.

I've been given the Hansard at this moment. I can find the exact phrase.

Mr Speaker, I would ask for a ruling from you as to the merit of that incident and how it was that we were required to withdraw and the member for Durham East was not required to withdraw. He was asked, after everything else had happened, if he thought it would be of interest to him to withdraw.

There must be fairness in this place, and the casting of aspersions in the manner in which it was done yesterday was such as to disrupt the proceedings here. In fact, under the standing orders, a Speaker can call a member to order when he does that and when the intent of his remarks is so to do.

Mr Speaker, I would ask for your ruling and await your deliberation on the incident of yesterday.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, there are a couple of points that I think need to be made here.

First of all, any point of order that's brought to the attention of the Speaker must be dealt with immediately. Having done that, the moment has passed and it is not something that can later be resurrected.

However, on a larger point—I appreciate what the member for Bruce has brought to my attention—as the member will know, I have a deep concern about the language that often is heard within this chamber. Unparliamentary words should not be used at any time, whether they are directed at an individual or a group of members. It is not acceptable. I don't know how we can conduct the public business in a civil way if we resort to using unparliamentary language. It does nothing but inflame the situation and does not lead to calm, reasoned argument.

The point that the member for Bruce makes is a valid one, and all I can do is to ask all members to exercise as much restraint as is humanly possible so that we can conduct our business in an orderly way. I appreciate what the member for Bruce has brought to my attention.

1400

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I would like to raise a point of order, in light of your ruling here today, with respect to what is going on in the resources committee and standing order 125 and your ability to issue or not issue Speaker's warrants under section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act.

I think it should be understood that previously we had standing order 123, which was basically the same thing as what is now standing order 125. The purpose in the previous set of rule changes for having standing order 123, and now 125, as my honourable friend has stated, was to give the opposition parties and the minority in this place—because at the time when those rule changes were made there was a majority government in place—the whole purpose of those negotiations and changing the standing orders and changing the rules of procedure was to give the opposition and the minority an opportunity to have a procedure by which they could have an issue that was in the public interest dealt with for 12 hours at a time.

The net effect of this majority government's actions in committee, combined with the ruling you gave here today, I would submit to you, totally does away with standing order 125, previously 123; totally does away with the intent of good faith negotiations by the then Liberal majority government in the province of Ontario with the then minority party, which was the New Democratic Party.

How ironic it is that they were the ones who negotiated, along with ourselves, standing order 123 and now they want to do away with it altogether. They don't want this issue dealt with. They don't want these people from Ontario Hydro to appear before the committee.

In effect, they are stifling and really doing away with standing orders 125 and 123. I would like an opinion as to whether or not that in fact is being done. If that's the case, how can any of us deal in good faith with the government on any issue?

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): On that point, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: On the same point? All right, briefly.

Mr Conway: If you'd rather not, I'm quite prepared to do this another day, except to say that I think the member for Parry Sound has a very good point. I was involved in those negotiations. What we have now, and I might say not for the first time, is a first experience that reduces the provision 125 to a near nullity if not a nullity per se, and that was not what was intended. It was certainly not the intention of those people who negotiated that particular provision.

If you look at standing order 125, it is clearly indicated in the provision that the steering committee shall meet and the steering committee shall essentially order the business for that particular reference and that the full committee will be bound by that direction. Now what we have here—

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): That is different than Speaker's warrants.

Mr Conway: The government House leader says this is different than a Speaker's warrant, and to a certain extent that is true, but the Speaker's warrant issue in this

connection ties I think very directly to the point that the member for Bruce and the member for Parry Sound have elucidated, and that is the ability of the government majority to essentially nullify a private member's initiative through standing order 125.

If that is in fact what the New Democratic Party in government wants, then I think that is an enormously important point for them to make. I would submit that it is pointless to consider applying that standing order and I want to say the mischief-maker in me looks forward to the date, not too many years into the future, when this precedent can be applied to the very people who wouldn't tolerate it for a moment if they were in opposition. If that's what they want, if that's the precedent they want, I'm not going to complain too loudly, because I will be pleased to apply it to the New Democrats at the first opportunity, which apparently won't be too many years off.

I say in conclusion that we, as a Legislature, should be embarrassed at the notion that the will of a committee to inquire into a government agency or some kind of government action can effectively be frustrated when members of the community to be inquired into conspire, at the behest in this case of the government, to simply not appear, and therefore the will of the parliamentary committee and Parliament itself can be merrily flouted. I can't believe there is any self-respecting member of this Legislature who wants to leave that precedent in our books.

The Speaker: With your indulgence, if the member would just take his seat for a moment, the matter is quite clear actually. Regardless of whatever understanding or sympathy I may have for the member's position, the principle remains intact that a matter concerning a committee must be dealt with by a committee.

I must say to the member for Parry Sound and the member for Renfrew North indeed, if there is a strong feeling that the intent of standing order 125 is not being upheld and it is not functioning properly, then one of two courses is open: either to try to effect a change in the rules or to try to negotiate a more effective resolution of this, perhaps through the House leaders.

As always, if there's some way in which my office can be of assistance in trying to ensure that the full intention for our standing orders as they affect committees is upheld, I am more than pleased to do that.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): On a point of personal privilege, Mr Speaker: In respect to the member for Bruce's complaint, I'd like to refer you to page 3336 of Hansard. Yesterday I made a comment during my address that members of the opposition were guilty of distorting the truth. This was challenged, and in Hansard it's recorded that I rose on my feet and unequivocally withdrew that.

Also—that was directed towards the third party—I sat down, I was challenged by the member for Mississauga, I think it is South, and I rose again and withdrew that remark in respect to them. So I did withdraw those remarks and I don't know what the member for Bruce is talking about.

The Speaker: First, I prefer that we lay this one to rest. The matter was dealt with yesterday. I appreciate its being brought to my attention. My only observation is that

no withdrawals would ever be necessary if no unparliamentary language were used.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Yesterday in the resources committee—and I do believe we required your direction in this matter—the subcommittee of the resources committee made a report pursuant to rule 125(b) indicating that certain individuals had been requested to appear, the invitation had been made and they had not responded. As such, in that report they then made a request to you that a Speaker's warrant be issued.

My point is this: Under rule 125(b) that type of report is in order and under rule 125(c) a report of the subcommittee is deemed to be a report of the committee. What happened yesterday is that the report of the subcommittee was not deemed to be a report of the committee; it was called for a vote, and that report of course did not carry.

My request to you, Mr Speaker, is a clear ruling that where there is a report of the subcommittee under rule 125(b), then as a result of 125(c) it must be deemed to be a report of the committee, thereby allowing the Chair of the committee to make a report to this Legislature for final determination. I believe that to be the rule under 125, not only in intent but in substance, and I believe what went on in the committee yesterday was an error which requires your guidance and your ruling.

1410

The Speaker: To the member for Mississauga North, I appreciate his interest. The matter must be dealt with in committee. The only report which we can deal with here in the House is a report that comes from a committee. Any report that's dealt with by a subcommittee must then find its way to the House, and only at that point can we deal with it in the House. It's very, very clear both in our procedures, our precedents and indeed in our reference material. If the member is unclear about the process, certainly I would invite him to talk with one of the table officers. The process is very, very clear.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): Today I am pleased to inform members that the Ministry of Education will provide \$301.7 million in grants for our 1992 school capital program.

In the fiscal year 1995-96, we will help build 21 new schools and 40 additions to schools through grants totalling \$180.2 million. Our 1995-96 non-growth projects, which include six new schools replacing older facilities as well as renovations to 92 existing facilities, will receive grants totalling \$52.9 million. The projects announced today will provide new accommodation for 30,240 students.

Another \$34.2 million in grants urgently needed to fund 174 junior kindergarten facilities will flow in the 1993 and 1994 fiscal years.

We also have \$34.4 million for emergency and contingency capital needs between now and the end of 1996.

Our program will fund a total of 333 projects valued at \$409.7 million. This is in addition to our Jobs Ontario Capital announcement made earlier this year of \$46 million towards capital projects valued at \$65 million.

I am pleased to inform members that this significant investment in Ontario's infrastructure will also help to create jobs and revitalize the economy. We expect this construction will result in jobs for Ontarians equivalent to one year's worth of work for an estimated 3,643 people.

I also wish to outline new strategic directions the ministry and our government are taking to achieve better delivery of services and programs in more cost-efficient ways and in more cost-efficient facilities.

As members may be aware, the Ministry of Education has recently concluded extensive consultation regarding community-based multi-use school facilities. By combining the location of our schools with appropriate and complementary community services, such as community centres, libraries, community colleges or day care centres, we can enhance the quality of community life as a whole and provide a lasting community resource.

A condition for funding the 1995-96 new facilities will be that the boards receiving these grants re-examine needs with the community involved for the possibility of incorporating multiple uses into the school facilities.

At the program stage, boards will be asked to show that they examined their projects in light of the multi-use initiative prior to receiving ministry approval. The ministry will provide a detailed analysis and review process to the boards affected.

Although not all of these projects will become multi-use, we are beginning to chart a sensible new course for the future. In keeping with this new direction, I wish to note that 27 of our projects will include child care centres in our schools, which will accommodate 1,130 children.

In the future, we expect most of our project submissions will be firmly rooted in this community-based multi-use approach. The current economic climate has forced all of us to seriously explore every means of cutting costs and spending wisely. I am convinced that multi-use schools will give the people of Ontario the highest possible quality service for their tax dollars, both in times of restraint and in times of prosperity.

These changes, combined with other initiatives under discussion, will allow us to move forward in tackling the historical disparity between the need for new pupil places and the numbers that can be accommodated.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I guess the word "finally" escapes one's lips and dances across the chamber floor. But in listening to the minister's statement, particularly the announcement about the capital for the 1995-96 year, one wonders why this could have not been done in the usual fashion and at the usual time, in the spring, when then the school boards would have been able to incorporate it into their planning so that they could have gotten on with the job. This does have an impact, because we want to have a flow, a three-year planning term for school boards. So this late announcement—here we are at almost the end of November, November 19—has caused problems for school boards.

With this announcement, I think the first thing one wants to say is that we implore the minister, when they are doing their capital projects for the next budget year, to make those announcements in April or May, following the Treasurer's budget, so that school boards in fact are going to be able to plan as they have. Because again, if we go back to the discussions in the 1980s, what school boards were asking for was, "We want to have a multi-year period in which we know what funds are going to come so that we can properly plan." That began. This government has indicated that it was going to follow along with that plan, but in order for that to work, we have to do it at the same time each year.

The minister hasn't commented in his statement today, but both my colleague from London North and I have drawn attention to the capital funding proposal that has gone forward to school boards and to which they were asked to respond by the 10th of this month, that this could in fact bring about significant changes in the way in which school capital will be allocated in the future.

All I will say at this point to the minister is that I think it is important that we have a full discussion within this Legislature of the nature and terms of those proposals, because I'm sure the minister is getting responses from school boards, as am I, as is the member for London North, that express a great deal of concern in terms of how that proposal is going to go forward and precisely what the terms and conditions will be.

In this announcement today the minister has also gone on to outline what he calls "new strategic directions" with respect to community-based, multi-use school facilities. This approach is one which we ourselves had been developing as a government, and I think in principle is something that everyone can agree with.

There are several cautions which I would like to remind the minister about as he goes forward in bringing this in. Clearly, and the first note, is that in some communities there will not be a need for a multi-use school, simply because other facilities such as the libraries or community centres, what have you, are already there. So I would just urge the minister as this is being implemented to demonstrate flexibility, to not put a lot of roadblocks in the way of boards which need to get on with the construction of specific schools where this is not going to be required.

The other thing is that the minister has said this will kick in in the 1995-96 capital year. It is for that year that the minister has just made these announcements. Consequently boards, as I understand it, are going to have to go back and look at the proposals they've made in the light of this new direction. In a number of cases boards which have spent considerable time in developing the projects that they have may well be linked to projects that were agreed upon for last year or the year before in terms of the ordering of the construction and the development of those facilities. So again, I think the ministry has to show flexibility in implementing this policy so that we don't get hung up in a lot of red tape.

With that, we are glad that finally this announcement has come forward. We expect to see the next one in the spring.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I would just like to thank the member for York North for forcing the government to make this announcement today.

1420

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Responses? Third party.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): In response to the Minister of Education, the word "final" is an understatement, but we do have the announcement today. I'm going to begin by saying that really what this announcement does is to allow school boards, if in fact they do want to build their schools before the 1995-96 school year—most of those school boards, or many of them, will choose to debenture all of the money. All this capital grants program today really does is that the announcement tells school boards they can debenture; that's all it is. This is not real money until 1995-96.

Of course, this whole program of forcing school boards to debenture and borrow money before they get money from the government was begun by the Liberal government some five years ago, and I have to say this is the way Ontario is going: borrow, borrow, borrow. When we were in government—I have to tell you I was on the school board for some 15 years—we never debentured anything. One of the statements that a former Minister of Education made to me when we asked for school board funding for capital for overcrowded schools in London was: "Do you have a debenture? Do you owe any money? Because if you don't, you're not eligible."

In the last four years since I've been elected, there are no rewards for good fiscal management, and this kind of debenturing and this kind of capital announcement which goes back for some five years is not appropriate. I have to tell you that although I'm standing here and I'm happy that the province of Ontario might be able to build these schools in 1995-96—they may be able to; let's hope they can—the direction we're moving in right now doesn't give us a lot of hope. I'm still happy that some of the school boards will at least have permission to move forward.

With regard to our Jobs Ontario Capital grant, I'm not certain how that's moving forward, but the minister does tell us this creates jobs and revitalizes the economy. Yes, it does; if school boards want to go out and borrow all of the money in order to build the schools in the next year, it will in fact, this year, revitalize the economy, but only because local taxpayers are going to be borrowing money and having to pay interest on that money, a very inefficient way of governing the province of Ontario.

I should tell you that the paper that went out to school boards for input with response to the implementation of debenture financing, where the government seems to want to set up yet another big agency of government just to handle debentures, the Peel Board of Education and others have sent their responses to myself, and I have to tell you this: "The board wants to convey to you in the strongest possible terms our deep concern about the proposal and the philosophy underlying it." That letter is to the Minister of Education.

I'll also talk about multi-use school facilities. This is not new. I sat on a committee that looked at community

use of schools, multi-use school facilities in 1974, some 18 years ago. It's not new. I will also tell you that at the program stage, boards will be asked to show that they examined their projects. So the multi-use initiative, if they haven't already got it in, will in fact delay school boards that are wanting to build immediately. This will delay them. I have to say, "Caution," to the minister on that. I hope you won't be delaying school boards that are at least in the category of urgent.

In the end, I wish to note the 27 projects will include child care centres in our schools, and if in fact those are community-based child care centres, I congratulate the minister. I think that may be a good use of space. But I will also say that the \$32.2 million that's going towards the junior kindergarten facilities, that's their program; they should be paying 100% for that, especially where boards don't want to do it. So I can only say this is not something the government should be proud of, in spite of the fact that it's making announcements.

In the end, why don't we know what schools are being built? Why do we have to wait till tomorrow? I want to phone my school board today. I don't want to wait for Mr Winninger to phone, like he did yesterday. We want to know today what schools are getting this money.

The Speaker: It is time for oral questions.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm going to ask for unanimous consent that the Minister of the Environment rise in her place and make a statement with respect to the GTA list she'll be releasing tomorrow, rather than abdicating her responsibility and doing it in a secretive fashion outside of this place. I'm asking if my colleagues could grant unanimous consent for the minister to face up to her responsibilities here.

The Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent for the Minister of the Environment to make a—

Interjection: No.

The Speaker: No. I heard one "no."

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): On behalf of the government, I'm pleased to note that tomorrow, November 20, is the anniversary of the day that the convention for the rights of children was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and we have unanimous consent to make a statement today.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous consent? Agreed.

Hon Mrs Boyd: I think all of us in this assembly will also agree that this is a date to be marked and to be celebrated with pride every year. Since the convention's passage at the UN, over 119 member states have ratified it, and Canada is among them.

The convention is a very significant document which establishes that a child is a person with legal and moral rights which the state has promised to defend. In 1990, this Legislature was unanimous in expressing its support for the United Nations convention. Our continued support is

extremely significant and helpful to the cause of the rights of children.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out special protection for children based on the universal declaration of human rights and the declaration on the rights of the child. The UN community of nations recognized the need for this convention because children, as a group, require special care and attention and are more vulnerable than other human beings.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes and aims to protect basic social, economic and cultural as well as civil and political rights for children around the world. It gives children—a child is defined as any individual under 18 years of age—the right to survive, to be protected and to develop the right to have a name and a nationality.

The convention emphasizes the important responsibilities parents have in the upbringing of children.

The convention also espouses the ideal that children should grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding with the protection and assistance necessary for full development of their personality. This is essential for children so that they may become responsible, contributing adults in society.

This week we heard disturbing reminders of the severity of child poverty in Canada and the continuing need for all of us to work towards an end to child poverty by the year 2000. Moving towards this goal and maintaining the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is made a greater challenge than ever before by the difficult economic conditions we are currently facing.

This provincial government remains committed to supporting programs which promote the wellbeing of children. We will continue to ensure that cost-effective and strategic use of tax dollars will support the children's agenda in a responsible and effective manner.

My ministry continues to work in collaboration with other ministries towards the integration of services for children in order to best benefit Ontario's young people. The goal of this integration is to create a cohesive network of services and programs for children. This means an interdependent and integrated system which supports parents and guardians in their child-rearing efforts and which is accessible and sensitive to the cultures and lifestyles of the people who use it.

This integration will result in services which are accountable for the benefits they provide to children, youth and families. It will also create greater efficiencies in the way services are provided.

Here I must make note of the progress we have made towards this priority in the area of child care. Extensive consultation has been completed on a reformed child care system in Ontario. Policy is presently being developed to respond to the advice we received from parents, care givers and the public on an improved and more affordable system.

A child care management plan has been developed and is being implemented across Ontario by my ministry to increase the availability of services that will meet the

needs of parents and children for nurturing and caring support.

At the interministerial level, the interministry committee on services for children and youth has been developing provincial directions and an action plan to guide the integration of program services and policies for children and youth.

The secretariat is in operation to support the committee and it will focus on promoting integration at the local level and on reducing interministerial barriers to service. The intent is to improve effectiveness and efficiency of existing services and to consolidate the government reform initiatives that are already under way. It is only appropriate that this secretariat will coordinate Ontario's implementation of the United Nations convention on the rights of children.

1430

On the ministry level, the Ministry of Community and Social Services is moving ahead with a number of projects to help us integrate services for children and families. Work has been initiated to establish a new policy framework and action plan to guide the future development of specialized children's services in Ontario. The framework calls for a cohesive, integrated system of specialized services for children and families, with appropriate linkages to health, education, recreation and other sectors. It includes short-, mid-, and long-term strategies to achieve this objective and others to ensure that children and families benefit to the greatest extent possible from available resources.

We consider the money we spend on our children to be the very best investment we can make in the future. By providing support and services and in some cases protection for children today, we can help them grow into strong, contributing adults, effectively preventing the need for additional and perhaps more expensive social services down the road.

Our efforts on behalf of children must take into account certain realities. It is a reality that approximately 40% of all people benefiting from social assistance in Ontario are children. It is also a reality that when people stand in line at food banks, many are taking home food to feed children who might otherwise go to bed hungry that night or to school hungry the next day. This government is currently developing ways to help families and communities provide healthy nutrition for our children.

Further, we know that doctors and hospitals are not the beginning and end of health care, particularly for young children. The full spectrum of health and the future of Ontario children is also dependent upon a clean environment, stable and healthy families and a safe, secure existence within a supportive community. Research indicates that without these supports in a child's life, there is an increasing likelihood that psychological and physical problems will take root and continue to affect their lives into adulthood. Then begins another intergenerational cycle. As a result, we all pay as a society. We must break that cycle by ensuring that the rights and responsibilities outlined in the convention with respect to our children are put into effect through our policies and practices in this province. It is in this spirit that together we can mark and honour this anniversary of the day the convention for the rights of the

child was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I rise, first of all, to join with all members in this House in support of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As the minister has indicated, some two and a half years ago, on a motion by the former member for Riverdale, David Reville, we had an afternoon's debate in this House which I think was a very positive and constructive debate on this convention and the various things that remain to be done to ensure that not only in Canada but more particularly in this province we could indeed give meaning to the rights of the child.

I think that, quite frankly, what we on this side of the House were looking for was that the minister today, in noting this day in terms of the United Nations convention, would have been more specific on actions this government is going to take for children, because if there has been a profound disappointment—and there have been many disappointments with this government—it has been the lack of action with respect to children and programs for children.

There have been a number of major works that have been done on children and the kinds of programs we have for children in this province, ranging from the Ontario Child Health Study, which set out the kinds of risks and the kids who really are the ones we need to help and why we need to help them, to the Children First report, which was brought to this House by the present government but had been started during the period of government of the Liberals, to the Better Beginnings, Better Futures program, which sought to establish a series of projects around the province to give meaning to the rights and to the entitlements of children.

But for the last two years what we have learned and what we have heard back from this government in terms of really improving the lot of children in this province has been a lot of words around interministry committees, consultation and processes, but without signs of real action.

The minister has indicated that, in her view, the area of child care is one where they have shown positive action. How can she say that in the face of the fact that there are 14,000 children currently waiting for subsidy while 5,500 spaces sit empty? Yet today in the Minister of Education's speech, he announces there are going to be a further number, over 1,000, child care spaces made available, but there are no subsidies to fill those spaces. Yet we all recognize the importance of child care, not simply for the children but for the families and particularly single-parent families for whom, without that child care, it becomes very difficult for the single parent to work, to take skills training and the like.

The Jobs Ontario program promised 20,000 spaces but only 38 are being used at the moment. We have seen no action there. With respect to abused children, we're aware that there's a six-month to two-year waiting list for therapy and counselling of abused children.

Children's aid societies all across the province are facing tremendous financial hardships. Indeed, in a number of areas they're having to cut the preventive programs, the ones that all of the various children's services experts

tell us are so important and so needed. Those primary prevention programs are not able to go forward.

High school youth: Increasingly, we see this terrible problem where there are more high school young people who are no longer living at home but for whom there is not adequate housing in this province. In my own area, the community services council is actually developing a housing list to be used by people in secondary schools so that they can find housing.

Street youth: Earlier this week, we talked about the problems that face street youth, particularly around counselling with respect to drug abuse, with respect to all kinds of issues they face. What we have is a whole series of problems out there where we are not seeing positive action.

I want to end with providing what I believe is a constructive approach that will bring all members of this House together to work with the government in trying to ensure that the commitment that each one of us individually has made to the United Nations convention, both two and a half years ago and today, can become a reality.

The minister has made reference to her policy framework for children's services, which is being discussed with children's service providers around the province. The minister is aware that last spring the standing committee on social development, with the support of every member of that committee—all three parties—agreed that we ought to look at the whole question of children at risk. I believe the minister agreed with that at the time.

This week my colleague from Ottawa-Rideau reintroduced that same motion as well as introducing the motion which the group from Campaign 2000 had urged that all members of this Legislature support towards the elimination of child poverty by the year 2000.

What I would ask the minister is to urge her party to agree to have the standing committee on social development look at this issue and come together so that we can collectively give meaning to the United Nations convention here in the province of Ontario. I think we would all look forward to working together because this is one area where I think there is agreement that we want to work together.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): It's a privilege for me to respond on behalf of my caucus colleagues with respect to paying tribute and acknowledging International Children's Rights Day, which will occur tomorrow all over the world. It is the anniversary of the passing of this United Nations convention resolution from 1989.

I'm sure all members of the House would be aware that Canada and our government took a leadership role in the development of this resolution and, in fact, sponsored the congresses that led to this very, very important resolution.

It declares that every child on the face of this earth is a person with legal and moral rights which their state is obliged and obligated to uphold and to protect.

1440

Children under the age of 15 comprise 1.4 billion people on the face of the earth, and they are the most vulnerable victims of catastrophe, whether that be a civil

war, whether it be natural disasters, whether it be apartheid, whether it be famine. These children are our most vulnerable victims, and yet half of the world's refugees today—half of them, seven million in all—are suffering under these circumstances.

Closer to home, here in our country, in 1990 when the last comprehensive statistics were taken, there were as many as 370,000 children living in poverty in our province. On International Children's Rights Day we as legislators should use this opportunity to reflect on how we have committed ourselves in our political acts, how we have established the necessary priorities for our work in this chamber to dedicating ourselves to improving the conditions of the children in our communities and in our province.

I listened very carefully to the Minister of Community and Social Services. I must say that in my eight years in this House, this is the first time I've seen ministerial statements time transcend its essential purpose and become an opportunity for the government to make at length a statement about its policies and its procedures and its expenditures. Well, if this minister has made this choice, then it is only fair that some of the facts that were missed in her presentation be put on the record on this most important and significant day.

Despite our province's affluence, one out of every six children in Ontario lives in poverty, with more than 60% of those children coming from single-parent, mother-led families. I call on this Rae government to listen carefully and to approve the resolution to end child poverty in Ontario, which was put forward by the Ontario Social Development Council in conjunction with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I know that we have been approached, the Liberal caucus has been approached, and so has the government. I wish to state for the record that we are anxious to have this government proceed with that resolution and to commit its government's policy and priorities to ensuring the rights of children.

Some 150,000 children in the city of Toronto are, through circumstances beyond their control, having to attend a food bank in order to get food on a monthly basis in this city of Toronto. If we listened to Gerard Kennedy and the 26 social agencies and volunteer agencies that are coordinating the food banks in the greater Toronto area, we would know of the thousands of children who are adversely affected by poverty and where there are no known programs addressing this issue: in my own community of Burlington, almost 1,200 children a month attending food banks.

This government raised the issue of what it was doing. I want to remind the minister, in the context of the needs of children, of the rights and the moral obligations for our government to uphold the law.

Your government has cut the special services at home program in Grey, Wellington and Waterloo counties. I am advised that two families have abandoned their children to the children's aid society because of the lack of funding, in order to provide the necessary respite for those families to survive as families. That is what is going on in the province of Ontario. That is the nature of the commitment that

we in this House, on all sides, have to recommit ourselves to.

There are still 10,000 children on waiting lists for mental health services in this province. I talked to a family where the two daughters and the mother were sexually assaulted. After the second suicide attempt of the sexually assaulted daughter, the mother took herself off psychiatric support services, because her daughter was still on a year's waiting list in our province. These are children, and those are the services that are not necessarily the priority of the government. We did not hear that in the minister's statement today.

I want to remind the minister that she is entitled to bring in her day care policy, as she made a statement in this House, but the truth of the matter is that her policies divide families. Where a child is receiving a subsidy in a non-profit centre or in a commercial centre, her government has clearly stated that if the second child in that family needs day care services, he or she can't be with an older brother and sister. They must be taken away and put to another centre.

Is that an appropriate policy for a government to recognize International Children's Rights Day? Does it not fly in the face of a child's right to be with his or her family, to receive those services?

Children's aid societies, briefly, are being cut back at a dramatic rate, all with deficits and nothing from this government in terms of how it is reorganizing its priorities to deal with those concerns.

There are more issues affecting children today than are being discussed or debated in this House. It impels us to make that a priority for all three political parties represented in this House.

I call upon this government not to spend its time developing the minister's statement today and all the wonderful things she thinks her government's doing, but to recommit itself to the children of this province, who quite frankly will be very vulnerable unless this government refocuses and recommit itself to the children of this province. I ask you to do that as we observe the United Nations day for the rights of children everywhere, but especially here at home in Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, and it has to do with the bleak outlook that's facing the unemployed workers in the province.

The minister will know that the plant closure numbers that just came out show that 1992 is going to be a record for plant closures. We see that we've lost one out of every five manufacturing jobs, and when this Rae government came to power, Ontario's unemployment rate was the lowest in the country. I see here in September that British Columbia has a lower rate, Alberta has a lower rate, Manitoba has a lower rate, Saskatchewan has a lower rate and New Brunswick has a lower rate.

My question to the minister is this: Why are the numbers continuing to get worse? Bob Rae promised that the economy would be better now. Why are these unemployment

numbers, the plant closure numbers and the manufacturing job numbers continuing to worsen, Mr Minister?

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): The member is correct. There is a major restructuring that is taking place not just in Ontario, but throughout North America, and indeed the industrial centre of Canada would be expected to suffer the most at that time. But I can tell the honourable member that we recognize there's a major problem. We are working with the various industries and with the sectors.

The Minister of Skills Development and I made a major announcement today in terms of retraining with a new plastics centre at Humber College. We are working with other industries not just in the plastics industries but in the auto industry, because Ontario has to become more competitive.

Over the last 10 years, Ontario's productivity was lower than any of the G-7 nations with the exception of the United States, and that was because of the actions—the inaction, if you want—of the previous two governments, which didn't see that there was a need for an industrial strategy then to make us competitive and to increase productivity.

Thanks to the work of our Treasurer—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Philip: —there are major incentives for companies to invest in machinery, to become productive and to increase the kind of productivity so that we can be competitive.

Mr Phillips: The answers are silly. I would say to the minister that you came in with the lowest unemployment rate in the country, and now virtually the majority of the provinces have a better rate.

You will be aware that yesterday the government released a major study. It had to deal with 1,300 workers who were affected by plant closures, a major study, a track done over three years, and that study is extremely disturbing. What it shows, among other things, is this:

These were 1,300 people who were laid off due to plant closures. It says here, as one of the conclusions: "Only 70% are currently employed, 30% still not working. Of those that are working, the vast majority are earning substantially less money now than in their previous job." In fact, 20% of them are earning \$10,000 or more, less than they had in their previous job. It tracks in very tragic terms the bleak outlook that faces laid-off employees due to plant closures.

My question to you is this, Minister: Why are the Rae policies not creating the necessary jobs to help these people to get back into meaningful, significant, full-time, well-paid jobs?

1450

Hon Mr Philip: No one knows more than this government or is more empathetic than this government on the plight of the workers who, in this economic centre of Canada, one of the economic centres of North America, are facing these kinds of hardships. I meet with the business

community on a regular, daily basis and I understand the problems.

We took over a government at the bottom of a recession. We didn't call an election as our solution to a problem. We took over a government at the bottom of a recession and we have been implementing some very specific policies to make us more competitive, indeed, policies that are recognized by other states in the surrounding areas that are suffering even worse than we are as a result of the North American recession.

Our sector partnership fund, for example, that is being looked at and being implemented by a number of sectors, will make various sectors, such as the telecommunications industry which has just turned out a blueprint for competitiveness in that industry, and the minister, Ms Haslam, deserves a lot of credit for working for that industry—

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Philip: Other industries, the auto parts industry: We're investing heavily in the auto parts industry. The Ministry of Skills Development just announced an \$18-million program to make the programs more competitive in that industry. We are working and we are moving ahead with those programs, and companies are investing here. Ford invested \$2 billion in this province. That's the largest investment any automobile company has ever made anywhere in the world.

The Speaker: Would the minister please conclude his response.

Hon Mr Philip: They made it under an NDP government, not under a Liberal or Conservative government.

Mr Phillips: I say again your answers are silly. Who cares when elections are called? They care about some action from you, and I want to ask you very directly, Minister: With all the plans you've got, your own economic plan for next year calls for unemployment rates to continue at the same level they are right now. Is that your plan, that you will just have the unemployment rate continue at the same level next year? I want to ask you directly, is a 10.6% unemployment rate acceptable to you as a minister and to Bob Rae as the Premier?

Hon Mr Philip: No, a 10% unemployment rate is not acceptable to this government and it's not acceptable to any government. Nobody would want a 10% unemployment rate, nor want a 9% or an 8% or a 7%. But if you look at the productivity rates in this province under the Liberals and Conservatives, and indeed in North America, you can see there has been a major problem about which the governments that have been in power here have had blinkers on, as have the American governments, and we're having a major restructuring.

This government has recognized that. We're the first government to come out with an industrial policy that actually has been endorsed by both the union movement and by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. We have a Treasurer who understands how he has to reduce certain taxes to industry in order to make it more competitive, and we have a Minister of Skills Development whose innovative

programs are increasing the skills level in this province. We're doing something. You did nothing.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Following upon my colleague's questions about jobs in general, I want to talk about jobs in a particular part of my region of eastern Ontario. Let me say at the outset that I understand there is much occurring in the economy today that the province in and of itself might not be able to do a lot about.

I want to talk about 55 jobs at the St Albert Cheese Cooperative in that wonderful county of Prescott-Russell, just out of Ottawa. My question is to the Minister of Health, and it's essentially this: Is she aware that at that century-old farmer cooperative, 55 jobs are now in jeopardy because the health officials, acting under regulations of Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act, are taking that cooperative to court because the health officials refuse to allow that century-old farmer cooperative to continue to do what it has done without any difficulty for almost a century, namely, to sell millions of dollars worth of fresh cheddar cheese curds, not only to people in—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: Well, we laugh, but I want to say that these are 55 jobs in rural eastern Ontario at a farmer-owned cooperative. These people have done well in tough times. They face very real pressure from the Quebec competitors just across the river and many of these jobs will disappear—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Conway: —at that cooperative if these health officials insist on applying the full spirit and letter of those, I don't believe particularly practical, regulations.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): As it appears that the member has certainly looked into this important issue with respect to his constituency, and I can understand his concern, I'm sure that he's aware that the health inspectors and the medical officer of health are taking action with respect to a product that at this point in time they are labelling as a hazardous food product. A hazardous food product, under the regulations, must be either refrigerated or served at a hot temperature, so at this point in time we have a problem with cheese curds being sold that have not been refrigerated immediately upon production.

I know that the dairy has a concern with refrigerating the cheese curds immediately upon production because it changes the texture of the cheese curds and they are no longer squeaky, according to the owner of the dairy, so there is a problem there.

Quite frankly, what amazes me is that in regard to what sounds like it could be a very serious health hazard because of what's being said—apparently, hazardous foods like cheese curds at the wrong temperature are hosts for pathogens which can cause diarrhoea, other symptoms, even death—it's interesting that we have in fact lived with cheese curds being sold at room temperature, fresh, for

many years and we don't seem to have a pattern of that illness.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: That raised to me the very same question of concern that the member has raised, and we have asked that the various people and the researchers who have been cited in some of the articles be called together for an investigation of this and a determination of whether or not the criteria that the factories are being judged by are appropriate.

Mr Conway: I appreciate the minister's response because I know her to be a reasonable person and what I want to restate—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: I'm deadly serious, because we're talking about jobs. We're talking about—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: I want to say that a lot of breast-beating goes on in this place about jobs and how jobs are lost because of international factors. These 55 jobs have been in that wonderful rural community southeast of Ottawa for a long time and these farmers have worked damn hard to keep those jobs and to meet a good domestic and inter-provincial market. I will not see government red tape run those jobs out of Prescott-Russell, and that's the real issue.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): Distorting the facts.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Conway: The Minister of Transportation talks about my distorting the facts. Is the government aware that the farmers' cooperative at St Albert, a year ago, because of its concern about health and safety issues, retained an eminent microbiologist, Dr Hill, from the University of Guelph, who in an opinion which he has made public states that providing those cheddar cheese curds at room temperature, which is what the consumers want, is probably a safer and healthier thing to do than what the health officials are now insisting upon, which, Dr Hill says, is likely going to cause the very health troubles that the health minions are trying to avoid?

Is the minister aware of Dr Hill's professional advice to the farmers' cooperative? On the basis of that advice from an eminent microbiologist and on the basis of decades of experience where hundreds of thousands of us in that region and across the central part of Canada have happily consumed that wonderful agricultural product made in eastern Ontario, and there has been no difficulty, will she not agree to call off her health minions and let these people keep their jobs and meet a very good agricultural demand?

1500

Hon Ms Lankin: I don't know why the member is yelling and sounding as if he's upset. I've actually agreed with him that I think there is a concern and that has been brought to my attention.

His specific question was whether I am aware of the research that has been conducted by Professor Hill at the University of Guelph. I'm certainly aware of the references to it. His work was unknown to the officials within my direct Ministry of Health until the discussions started to take place with the dairy. We have been made aware of it and we have invited Professor Hill to attend the meeting I have spoken about, which is going to be held within the next couple of weeks.

I might just point out to the member, as he talks about health minions and red tape, that our health inspectors in our public health units do do a very important job, and I'm sure he would agree with that. The public health units out there, I think, and the member would be very concerned if I were to directly interfere with or call off medical officers of health who are quite independent in terms of enforcing the legislation.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: However, all of the questions he raises, I think, are serious questions and they will be the subject of the meeting which will bring together Professor Hill, people from the ministry and from the public health units to try and resolve this very issue.

Mr Conway: Mr Speaker, a final question and I want to make the point: Any of us who know this farmers' cooperative and its products know that there's no evidence that there has been any health issue at all over the decades. Let that be clear. We have the opinion of Professor Hill which indicates that freezing the curds is very likely to cause the problems that have not occurred to date.

Having regard to the fact that the health officials from the local health unit acting under regulations of the provincial statute have harassed this cooperative, have taken the cooperative to court and a court date has been scheduled for early December, will the minister give me an undertaking, and more particularly the farmers who operate that cooperative and the men and women who work there, that she is going to move swiftly to unravel this red tape, to call off this kind of harassment, and will she give me the undertaking that she will do this expeditiously so that we cannot only keep the squeak in the curds but keep those jobs in eastern Ontario and not force the jobs across the river to Quebec?

Hon Ms Lankin: I think we need to take the humour out of references to the squeak in the curds and those sorts of things and actually deal with the issue that the member's asking here. He's asking me to call off a medical officer of health and health inspectors, public health officers with respect to the job they're doing in enforcing legislation and regulation. That's a very, very dangerous request that he is making of me.

The information that they are acting on with respect to the regulations is a belief held by those medical specialists with respect to a particular product and with respect to health standards. I wouldn't interfere in putting my judgement, a political judgement in their place.

However, everything the member has said makes sense. We've had this product for years. There doesn't

appear to be any evidence of a problem. Why is now that we're starting to enforce it when we haven't in the past? All of those, I think, are very reasonable things.

There seems to be some independent research. We have already called a meeting of these people together. It will be happening before the end of November, before the court date in December. We saw an issue that needed to be acted on and I think we've acted on it. Thank you.

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Treasurer. On Monday, Treasurer, I was asking you about your dismal record on job creation and on the economy. I also had made some comments about the Premier being in Asia and what kind of success he was having in scaring off business investment there.

You indicated that contrary to others, you'd just received a release, a message from Osaka, Japan, where our Bob was having lunch during his Asian junket. You told us that Kubota, a heavy machinery manufacturer, just announced right after that luncheon, having met with our Bob and that speech, a \$10-million expansion in Ontario.

Treasurer, for the thousands of unemployed men and women who are desperate for good news from this government, I thought today I'd lob you an easy one and ask you if you'd just give us some further details on this expansion.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): The leader of the third party asks an appropriate question. I must say when I used the reference of Kubota, it was in response to receiving a wire report that came off one of the wire services. I can't remember which one now.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Bob Rae's wire service.

Hon Mr Laughren: No, it wasn't a Bob Rae wire service.

I learned subsequent to that—I appreciate or sort of appreciate the leader of the third party reminding me of it—that it was not as recent an event, quite frankly, as I thought it was when I used it as a reference.

Mr Harris: I thought there might have been a statement today from the minister indicating that the Kubota announcement is a year and a half old. It has nothing to do with Bob's visit to Japan or this government. In fact it's really an indication that you are very, very out of touch with Ontario's economic realities, that you are desperate for any little bit of good news, that you'll grab on to anything even a year and a half old.

Mr Treasurer, let's get down to realities. Barron's national business and financial weekly, just out, is very much in touch with what's going on in Ontario. In this issue, a currency expert blames Canada's poor economy largely on your NDP policies. Barron's weekly indicates things such as this:

"Can I say something that maybe you would know if you lived in Canada? Canada today is run by socialists. Ontario is 40% of the economy, and Bob Rae of the NDP is Ontario's Premier."

"Q: NDP stands for—"

"New Democratic Party, but essentially it's a socialist party. Mr Rae has done and is doing and will do everything to introduce socialist policies. His labour laws are horrible, absolutely horrible. They are a throwback to Russian communism."

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Harris: He goes on and says in this article things such as:

"People are moving their facilities, their factories away, to Buffalo, to northern New York, anywhere else. There will be no more manufacturing activity in the province of Ontario."

Treasurer, Mr Deputy Premier, all the business analysts from around the world internationally and within Canada are telling you your policies indeed are crazy, that they're loony, that they're costing us jobs and investment. Will you finally acknowledge the fact that your plans so far have been a disaster and will you bring in a new economic plan immediately?

Hon Mr Laughren: As an avid reader of Barron's, I did read that article and I was taken aback by the language in it and the antediluvian views of the person who was being quoted. The person who was being quoted in that article is someone who admitted that he was selling Canadian dollars short and then runs down the Canadian economy and potentially reaps benefits from selling the Canadian dollar short.

I ask you, is that the kind of person you want to quote in this assembly? Is that who you're basing your research on now, someone who refers to this government as being communistic, for heaven's sake? I thought that kind of language went out with the McCarthy era and I certainly am surprised and appalled, if not shocked, by the fact that the leader of the third party is still living in that kind of Stone Age.

Mr Harris: Let me say to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that I thought that kind of language had gone out with the Stone Age, had gone out with McCarthy as well. I was surprised at the depth of animosity, of bitterness, and the lack of understanding that your party, your government, has towards business and investment that it would provoke this kind of reaction from responsible business people.

This is not the first time a respected international business magazine has slammed your government's handling of Ontario's economy, embarrassing us worldwide. Two months ago, Forbes magazine sent the same signal to the global investment community. "Stay out of Ontario because of Bob Rae and the NDP," they said. I say to you, Ontario still has much to offer, but we are losing ground. We're losing ground fast and, as a result of your government, we are losing credibility.

1510

Treasurer, you won't listen to me. You wouldn't listen to the plans we gave you, to the New Directions documents, to the 60 pages of economic renewal, to the 50-odd pages of directions we gave you to reform the apprenticeship and the college and the university system and the

education system. You won't listen to the people who create jobs. You won't listen to people who invest. You won't listen to leading business magazines.

I am now come down to this: Who is it, Treasurer? Who is it that has your ear? Who is it that is advising you? Who are you listening to?

Hon Mr Laughren: The leader of the third party stands up on his supplementary question and says that he too doesn't like the kind of language that was quoted in that article, and yet he himself uses it as a reference point when he asks his first question. Either the leader of the third party is going to use that kind of language in this assembly or he's not. If you want to persist in spreading the word and quoting people who use language that's so outrageous and so outdated that then you attach yourself to those kinds of views as well, then you live with that, my friend; you live with it.

The leader of the third party gets on his feet and makes references as to whom this government is listening to. I want to tell the leader of the third party that nobody else in North America has put in place the kinds of programs we have put in place for the long-term benefit of this province.

Mr Harris: That's right, and that's why we're such a disaster. That's what we've been trying to tell you. Nobody else is being so stupid, not one province, not one state. That's exactly what we've been trying to tell you.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the Treasurer take his seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Treasurer.

Hon Mr Laughren: I've always heard that profanity is the attempt of a weak mind to express itself. If the leader of the third party wants to sit over there and call me stupid, I guess it's his privilege to do so, but I don't know what he thinks he's accomplishing for the unemployed people in this province with that kind of language.

The Speaker: Point of order?

Mr Harris: I'm sorry, Mr Speaker, but when the member gets up and suggests that I called him stupid when I did not—I said his government, his policies were stupid. I stand by that, but not the Treasurer.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Could the Treasurer conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'll try not to be provocative, but the leader of the third party, first of all, makes references and quotes someone who refers to this as a communistic regime. Secondly, he stands up on his feet and calls us stupid. If the leader of the third party has sunk so low that he has to resort to that kind of language and those kinds of references, then I think he's bankrupt of any ideas that are fruitful at all.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Mr Harris: That shoe's a pretty good fit.

The Speaker: The member for Leeds-Grenville.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a question for the Solicitor General and it has to do with news reports today in respect to the fact that a repeat homosexual paedophile is going to be "dumped" in Toronto. This individual is responsible for at least 22 sex-related convictions. The National Parole Board of Canada indicated it believes he might reoffend and he is being placed in Toronto, apparently on to the streets, without direct supervision. I'm wondering if the Solicitor General of the province of Ontario is aware of this and what reaction he has to this news.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I gather from the question from the member opposite this is an action of the federal government through the Canadian parole system. On that basis, I'm not able to react to him. If there is some information in our jurisdiction that is appropriate, I'd be prepared to pursue that.

Mr Runciman: All members of the House heard earlier from all three parties in respect to the rights of children in the world and specifically the rights of children in this province. Obviously this was a major story in one of the Toronto dailies this morning, so I'm surprised the minister is not at least apprised of it by his staff if he doesn't read the papers himself.

I want to give the minister some information in respect of what's happening in other jurisdictions. For example, in Washington state, police officers in similar situations go door to door with a photograph of the offender, warning the community and the neighbourhood that this man is going to be in the area and advising them that their children should not talk to him. We had a situation recently in Metro Toronto where a rape victim is now suing the Metro force for, in her view, not issuing adequate public warning.

So I'm asking you today, Minister: Are you prepared to issue similar directions to the Metro force if indeed this individual is placed in Metropolitan Toronto, that police officers will be given the authorization and direction to go door to door in these communities, wherever he's located, warning families and warning children specifically that this is an individual they should avoid?

Hon Mr Pilkey: Not that I don't mind hearing from the member on any number of matters but, as I indicated previously, this matter he raises is in the federal jurisdiction. As a matter of fact, I suspect this is a federal corrections matter, not a provincial corrections matter. I might return the question to the member opposite if he is aware of what actions or public declarations or warnings the federal Solicitor General, Doug Lewis, has indicated with respect to this matter.

Mr Runciman: I think most Canadians, certainly in the Conservative Party of Ontario, have grave concerns about the actions of the parole board in this country. We have limited ability at the provincial level in terms of what we can do about that, but there are certain things you can do as the Solicitor General of this province. I'm asking you specifically about things you can do. What I'm really indicating is that this minister today, by his lack of responses, is failing to give clear assurance to the families in

Metro Toronto that their children are going to be protected from this individual who's responsible for 22 sexual offences.

What I'm saying is, don't just sit back and blame it on the federal government. You have a responsibility and an obligation to provide public safety, and I'm saying do something. Make sure police are out there, warning the communities that this dangerous offender is in their midst.

Hon Mr Pilkey: It seems to me that the member is confusing the responsibilities, as I say, of the federal correction ministry. As memory recalls, in the Muskoka area very recently, Doug Lewis, the federal Solicitor General, who should be well known to you, was in front of that community as a result of a lack of notification with respect to this. I suggest that perhaps the member follow that course of action if he wants this matter publicized.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr Speaker, you'll recall that yesterday I asked whether hospitals would be facing increased or changed—

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): You get up and say you care for the rights of children and then you say something like that.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member for Leeds-Grenville come to order so the member for Halton Centre can pose her question.

1520

Mrs Sullivan: Yesterday I was speaking with the minister in question period about the increased difficulties that hospitals will face as a result of lower provincial funding than the 2% increases which were promised last January. Today I want to turn to the issue of the workers associated with lower than promised transfers.

The hospital training and adjustment panel was set up so that hospital workers whose jobs were eliminated this fiscal year as a result of the minister's policies could be retrained. As a result of staffing cutbacks that have already taken place, some 20 people are already in training, and hundreds of others will of course access that fund.

I'm asking the minister today, first, if she will make public any and all studies that she has conducted within her ministry which would identify how many more hospital jobs would be cut, given a transfer increase less than 2%; second, what impact more staff cuts would have on the adjustment fund and its costs; and further, if the minister will commit that all hospital workers whose jobs are eliminated as a result of a less than 2% transfer increase will be guaranteed access to retraining and to the resources to pay for that retraining.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): The member's question, again, is based on the assumption of a change in the level of transfer payment from the forecast that was presented in the Treasurer's statement back in January. At this point in time, as the member well knows, that's an issue that is being reviewed and being decided,

and until there is a decision and the Treasurer makes an announcement, it is premature to speculate that there will in fact be a change in the 2%.

Concerning the question that she asked with respect to worker adjustment and training, she's right, we have just now moved into phase 2 of HTAP, which has freed up \$25 million dollars to be available to start to retrain workers, and there are some workers who have just moved into the program.

The number of workers who would be able to access those funds and what will be available of course will depend on the outcome of the next year or so with respect to the number of workers in need of assistance. The fund itself is a finite fund at this point in time. It was a total of \$30 million, and we expect that this will actually go some significant way.

If the member remembers when in fact we set up the fund, the projections for that point in time—

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: —were some 14,000 layoffs of workers. We have in fact at this time experienced about 600. I think the fund will be in place for some time and will be helpful to a number of workers.

Mrs Sullivan: The minister will know that there is considerable uncertainty among hospital workers as a result of speculation with respect to the transfers that has not been put to rest. The minister will also know, and I know she understands, that hospital workers who are being displaced need retraining to work in community-based or other public health services.

The delivery of services in a hospital is very different from the delivery of services in a home or other community-based setting. However, due to the NDP government's lack of attention to community-based health care services and the absence of any announcement on long-term care, workers who have been cut from hospitals are being trained for jobs which don't exist.

I'm asking the minister if she would commit today to providing appropriate resources to the community-based and public health services so that hospital workers who are on the street and who have been retrained or are being retrained will have jobs to go to after they finish the training.

Hon Ms Lankin: The member raises what I consider to be a very important question and one that is, I think, one of the most significant challenges facing us in the health care sector as we're going through reform and restructuring. Our attempt to provide good quality services and maintain the quality of services while we shift from the way we do things, from illness treatment to health promotion, from institution to community, is all well and fine, but we really do need also to attend to the issue of workers in the health care sector, and I appreciate her concern about this.

Over the next number of years we do have multi-budgeted figures available for investment in community, in long-term care, and we hope to be moving forward with our plans in that and in the next budget year to see some expansion in jobs in those areas. I think we can start to do

the retraining with those jobs in mind and try and make those matches.

There are some areas where there is actually growth that has been budgeted for, in community health, for example; a number of new community health centres each year. We are going out on a request for a proposal for new birthing centres based in the community, an exciting new way of delivering health services. In each of those areas we have sent letters with the funding—

The Speaker: Would the minister please conclude her response.

Hon Ms Lankin: Yes, I will, Mr Speaker. We've sent letters with the funding that have requested those agencies through look through lists of laid-off workers. We're trying to close the loop on this and have a worker adjustment program in the health care sector that really works.

The Speaker: New question.

TORONTO ISLANDS COMMUNITY

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the legislation for the Toronto Islands.

We know full well the legislation is now being passed for second reading today and that it allows the island residents to live on the island for 100 years for a buck a day, which this government considered a reasonable and fair rent, which anyone else would consider to be absolutely unbelievable preferential treatment for two polls that voted NDP.

Funnily enough, I got a call today from one island resident, Ms Wilma Fraser. Ms Fraser told me she's absolutely embarrassed that you should do this. She's offended that you would give her this kind of preferential treatment and the islanders preferential treatment.

She also told me that most of these islanders are not original islanders. She told me that only a handful are original islanders. She also told me that on her street of nine homes; four of them are used as cottages, by a lawyer, a CEO, professionals who in fact have full-time residences in Rosedale.

So what we have is a government that is passing legislation—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the member have a question?

Mr Stockwell: —that will give residents of Rosedale cottages on the Toronto Islands, in a park, for a buck a day for 100 years. Is this the kind of fair and equitable social treatment that we can look forward to in the future from your government?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): The other day the member was saying they were all socialists on the island. And they actually would phone him? The member can take the numbers and play around with them in any way he wants, but the fact of the matter is that the whole issue was examined by Richard Johnston, who discussed the matter with Metropolitan Toronto, with the city and with the people who live on the island and came up with the plan to preserve a community, to preserve a neighbourhood in Toronto. One of the things that

makes the city of Toronto such a good place to live is that neighbourhoods and communities have been preserved, and that's something I think governments should be promoting, not trying to put down.

I don't subscribe to the position that the honourable member takes, that what should happen is that the people who live on the island should be evicted and their homes bulldozed. That's not something a civilized society would engage in.

Mr Stockwell: Firstly, as usual, the Minister of Municipal Affairs doesn't even understand what position this party and I have taken on this issue. If you don't care to listen, I accept that, but don't regurgitate untruths. That's not what I said in the past.

Secondly, I want to ask the minister, is this the kind of legislation you are passing, which I find absolutely offensive, that someone who probably earns six figures can have a cottage on the island in the middle of a park for a buck a day for 100 years, when there are single mothers, seniors, people on welfare in the streets in this city looking for housing, and you're housing people who are earning six figures potentially and living in Rosedale, with a cottage on the island?

My question is this: Mr Minister, will you not examine the assessment rolls, the income levels of these people you're housing for a buck a year, a buck a month for a 100 years—a buck a day to ensure that these people—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Stockwell: Will you examine the assessment rolls, Mr Minister? I don't find this funny; I find this offensive, absolutely offensive.

The Speaker: Would the member conclude his question, please.

1530

Mr Stockwell: I ask the minister, will you examine the assessment rolls to find out if these people who are living in these cottages at taxpayers' expense for a buck a day for 100 years are in fact living in Rosedale in the winter and earning six-figure incomes? That's the least you can do to ensure that taxpayers' money is being properly spent.

Hon Mr Cooke: In one line the member says "a buck a day"; then it's a buck a month and a buck a year. I think what he should do is take a look at the various—

Mr Stockwell: Come on, come on.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, it would be appreciated if you would come to order so that you can hear a response to the question which you asked.

Hon Mr Cooke: The Johnston report made it very clear and outlined the income levels of the people who live on the island. I think it's very unfair and inaccurate, but typical, of the member to misuse and not adequately reflect the facts. People on the island are not earning six figures, so don't use that kind of garbage here in the Legislature.

The Speaker: New question? I'm sorry—the Minister for Culture and Communications with the response to a question asked earlier.

TVONTARIO EMPLOYEE

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): A couple of days ago in this House the member for Mississauga South reported a number of allegations over the misuse of taxpayers' money at TVOntario involving an employee and her bid for re-election within the NABET union. The member also issued a news release containing numerous inaccuracies.

However, I have looked thoroughly into this matter, and the member is wrong. The member claims that the NABET candidate used TVO stationery and envelopes paid for by the taxpayers for her union campaign activities. This is wrong. The fact is that envelopes were purchased from Grand and Toy, with the receipt available for proof of purchase.

The member said that it's even possible that TVO paid for postage. This is wrong. The fact is, the cost of the mailing was cross-charged to NABET in accordance with the TVO cross-charging policy, and the account has been paid in full.

The member also indicated that this was the second incident of this kind involving this employee. The member implied that on the previous incident, the employee arranged to have her election material contained within TVO paycheques. Wrong again. The fact is that the election material was not enclosed with any employees' paycheques. It was offered to NABET members for pickup at the time their cheques were distributed. There were separate envelopes, and employees could either accept it or reject it.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Supplementary, the member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I would never have thought that I would hear in this House a cabinet minister stand and defend union activities, but that's what we're dealing with. I would like anyone in this House—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mrs Marland: I would like anyone in this House to look at this envelope. I simply say in response to the minister that I will use the words that are used by this person, this candidate by the name of—let me just get her name correct—Margarette Kaszecki-Pyron. In her letter, she states, and states very clearly—I quote from her letter, and I think this is very significant—"Before I made any attempt to distribute my campaign literature, I sought and received permission to do so from the director of human resources of TVOntario."

I also would like to suggest, in fairness, that the fact is that this person has, I suppose to use a colloquialism, been caught with her hand in the cookie jar twice.

The Speaker: Will the member place a supplementary, please.

Mrs Marland: Is it not so that TVOntario had to write a letter of apology to the Ontario Labour Relations Board? The fact that Mr Droz had to write—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member please quickly place a supplementary.

Mrs Marland: Mr Speaker, I'm happy to place a supplementary. The envelope in question, Madam Minister, has on it "TVOntario," mailing address, "Box 300, Station G, Toronto, Ontario, Canada," and the postal code. I ask you, Madam Minister, do you feel it is appropriate for a candidate for an office in a union to receive permission from a human resources director of TVOntario to use the postage meter, whether or not she pays for it, that comes with the TVOntario logo? Also, I ask you, Madam Minister, if you condone that kind of use of equipment belonging to the taxpayers and paid for by the taxpayers of this province, not the postage amount but the fact that it—

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat. A number of questions have been posed. Does the minister wish to respond?

Hon Mrs Haslam: The member is wrong again. She asked me to investigate this, which I did thoroughly. I made phone calls and my staff made phone calls. Clearly, the member for Mississauga South has not done her homework. She should do her homework before she raises those types of allegations in the House. She asked about taxpayers' money and I investigated those concerns.

The policy in place with TVO is there to cross-charge for not only the use of the meter but for the staff time. This is a policy within TVO that is there. I have tried to address the concerns of the member.

In addition, I feel very upset that the member's bad judgement has shone unnecessarily negative light on TVO. It's unfair and misguided. TVO is a unique and an interesting cultural entity within here. To raise those allegations within this House I think was not appropriate. I have answered her questions—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. New question.

WATER QUALITY

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): This afternoon in this House I'm going to raise a very serious and very important issue that dramatically affects the life of an individual in this province.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To whom is your question directed?

Mr McClelland: I will place the question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Minister, you will be aware of the situation with Ben Berendsen's farm, a dairy farmer who lives near Palmerston, Ontario.

You will know that many years ago the Ministry of Transportation buried a considerable amount of asphalt on his property. You'll also know that the well water is seriously contaminated on his property and that water is being used for his cattle and for his family and is ending up,

obviously, in dairy products that are subsequently distributed around the province.

Minister, since 1990 your ministry, together with the Ministry of the Environment, has been supplying alternate-source water to Mr Berendsen for his use and the use of his dairy farm production. Tomorrow you're going to cut off that water supply. Why are you doing it, Minister?

1540

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I'm not sure that I'm the appropriate person to be answering this question, but I certainly will make an attempt. The member raises a question regarding the supplying of water to a farmer who I believe lives in Wellington county, if I'm not mistaken. A number of months ago a problem surfaced. The Ministry of the Environment was involved in testing water on the farm. The ministry was unable to find anything in the water which would suggest that there was a problem attributed to a former dump, we believe, of asphalt, on the property, but to give the farmer the benefit of the doubt, the Ministry of the Environment was contributing water for a period of time.

Subsequent to that, we became involved, the Ministry of Agriculture, and shared the cost of supplying that water, pending tests on the water. We have been working with the member for Wellington, Mr Arnott, on this matter. We've been working with Mr Berendsen trying to do the best we can to provide water until such time as we could have accurate proof.

There were some tests done and officials examined the results of those tests and determined that there was no clear proof there was anything in the water that could be attributed to anything the government had done in the past.

Mr McClelland: Minister, I say to you, with the greatest respect, the question has been put to you because the letter to Mr Berendsen is on your letterhead. You state in this letter that you relied on information provided to you by the Ministry of the Environment and review of the technical data available.

Let me tell you, sir, you've either been bamboozled or you haven't done your homework and you've been negligent, I say to you with respect, in light of that. The laboratory that provided the information—I have a copy of the report here and it says as follows, very plainly, without any equivocation, "Dioxins are 100 times the level permitted, according to the minister's guidelines," the Minister of the Environment's guidelines—100 times, and you're telling me there's nothing wrong with the water.

Get a grip on reality and understand the dilemma this man is in. PCBs in his well water are 20 times, 20-fold, the factor allowed by the Ministry of the Environment's guidelines. It's a serious, serious health problem. You have not looked at the data. It is from an eminent, well-respected laboratory your ministries have used in the past that has an international reputation.

Will you agree to continue to supply water for Mr Berendsen, get hold of this matter, do the homework properly? Don't be bamboozled by the information you obviously haven't reviewed—

The Speaker: Would the member conclude his question, please.

Mr McClelland: Do it professionally, Minister. There are very, very serious consequences if you cut off that water tomorrow. Please agree to extend until you review the report supplied by the laboratory.

Hon Mr Buchanan: I don't know that it's appropriate to stand up in the House and talk about standards and mention PCBs and dioxins and not talk about which standards he's talking about, whether they're Ontario, Canadian or US standards. There's some uncertainty about which guidelines are being referred to in the report.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): The well's poisoned.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Halton Centre. Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon Mr Buchanan: I just wanted everyone to be aware that there's more to this story than what the member was suggesting. When officials looked at the results of the tests, both when the water was first turned on and once the water had run for a period of time, it's my understanding, not being a technical person, that once you ran the water for a period of time, the results were within limits. It was on that basis that officials had decided that there was no cause attributable to the province of Ontario.

Having said that, I want the member to know that I spoke yesterday with the member across the way from that county who represents Mr Berendsen. He brought some information to my attention personally, as did the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and asked me to personally have a look at it. I had agreed that I would take a look at the material that was brought to my attention yesterday. I will do that. I will speak with my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, because I recognize the concern of Mr Berendsen and his family. I am willing to do that, but I don't appreciate having numbers and chemicals thrown around in this House when we don't know what regulations we're using and whether you're talking about all the tests or one test.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. On November 2, you announced nearly \$687,000 to be spent as part of the wife assault prevention campaign. That money was to be spent on brochures, ads and posters.

Now, as a result of this increased public awareness, more women than ever are trying to access the community services only to find that the shelter services are inaccessible as they are already operating above capacity. There is simply no room for the women involved in violent situations at home and they cannot find room at the shelters. In fact, your own Helpline is referring women to these shelters that are full.

Why are you spending so much money on advertising and not providing the appropriate resources to the individuals who are desperate and coming forward for help at the shelters?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): The member is quite right. She will recall that in my statement in the House, as well as in my statement to the press, we acknowledged, as did the previous government, which was in the same situation, that although we cannot provide residential services for all women who might seek them under the impetus of this kind of campaign, the campaign itself builds an awareness within the community which offers other safeguards to women, which offers to women the knowledge they need to look for other opportunities to have support.

Many women do not determine that the only avenue of support is through shelters. There are many other community supports that we're developing and they can only develop as a result of an improved community awareness.

I should tell the member that I also feel, having worked in a similar situation where November is always a month when those of us who worked in the field felt the added pressure of those who suddenly wanted information, that there is a sense often that it may not be worthwhile, when we're under that kind of pressure during that month. But I can assure the member that in the long run the kind of momentum and impetus that is built through a concerted program like this is exactly what makes taxpayers prepared to continue to contribute to improve services that help the awareness within this House for support of increased services. That, in and of itself, makes it worthwhile for us to continue.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In accordance with the House rules and regulations, yesterday I raised a question in the House with the Minister of Correctional Services, who indicated he would undertake to investigate the case of four 15-year-old girls who have been taken from child detention and put in adult detention.

The minister undertook to get back with a response. Both ministers are in the House and I would have thought that with the importance of this matter, we would have heard something from the ministers. I ask them if they can report to the House in accordance with their undertaking yesterday. This is serious matter.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I understand the member's interest. It is not a point of order. Any undertaking a minister has indicated is something the minister then would have the opportunity to follow through on at some point, but there is nothing to compel the minister to provide a response in the House.

Mr Jackson: Mr Speaker, I have no wish to be argumentative. My point is a point of order. Is it my right as an MPP to advocate on behalf of my constituents and the several other constituents who are represented in this chamber? If I cannot get a response from this government while the House is sitting, I will not get a response this weekend—

The Speaker: Not a point of order; no. Would the member take his seat, please. Would the member take his seat.

1550

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Mr Speaker, Pursuant to standing order 34(a), I wish to advise you of my dissatisfaction with the response of the Minister of Culture and Communications to my question today.

The Speaker: The member will file the necessary document with the table.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Earlier in this session the House approved a motion that would place consideration of Bill 74 and its three companion pieces of legislation under time allocation in committee of the whole.

Further amendments that will be proposed to those bills, which I understand will include several score from the government and perhaps an equal number from the opposition parties, will be included when the committee moves to committee of the whole, which will be, I'm advised, next week. The time allocation would mean that committee of the whole would only have perhaps five hours to deal with those substantial amendments.

Further to that, the order of the House would require that the amendments that are put will not be read into the order paper but would simply be deemed to be moved.

I'm asking for unanimous consent of the House to place a motion which would read, "I move that the House reconsider its motion of May 28, 1992, and extend time for committee of the whole House consideration of Bills 74, 108, 109 and 110 to ensure that all amendments to be put to those bills shall be read and not simply deemed moved, so that legislators and the public will be advised of what is included in government and opposition amendments to those bills."

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent? No.

MOTIONS

REFERRAL OF BILL Pr45

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I move that notwithstanding standing order 86(a), the referral of Bill Pr45, An Act to incorporate the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund Foundation, to the commissioners of estates bills be discharged and the bill stand referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I've affixed my signature. It bears the signatures of several residents of Middlesex county.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Another 5,000 petitions from people in York region to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has released a list of 19 proposed sites in the region of York as possible candidates for landfill, two of which are located in the riding of Markham;

"Whereas the decision to prohibit the regions of the greater Toronto area from searching for landfill sites beyond their boundaries is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, section 5(3); and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario repeal Bill 143 in its entirety and allow a more democratic process for the consideration of future options for the disposal of greater Toronto area waste, particularly the consideration of disposal sites beyond the boundaries of the greater Toronto area, where a 'willing host' community exists who is interested in developing new disposal systems for greater Toronto area waste."

I have affixed my name to this, one of the last sets of petitions that we've given before the short list comes out.

GAMBLING

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I'm glad to rise in the House again and continue with these thousands of people who have signed about the lamentable introduction of casino gambling in the province of Ontario.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to family life and quality of life for the citizens of Ontario; and

"Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gaming and gambling ventures; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had historical concern for the poor in society, who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized casino gambling despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario;

"Therefore, we the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government immediately cease all moves to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of

allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative."

I am proud to affix my name with these hundreds and hundreds of citizens of Ontario.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition from the parishioners of St Columba Anglican Church in St Catharines. It reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity. By my signature here attached I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

This is signed by several of the parishioners from St Columba Anglican Church. I've affixed my signature in agreement with the sentiments expressed in this petition.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The second to last petition to be tabled by me before the short list comes out: 700 names, people signing this from Markham, Stouffville, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Kingston and other places.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to uphold legislation to protect environmentally sensitive areas from landfill sites; and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the NDP government and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to protect environmentally sensitive areas and look at all viable options for waste disposal. Markham residents protest the location of a landfill site on the M6, Rouge Valley system and M3, the Unionville site."

I've affixed my name to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): I'm presenting petitions to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 160 constituents in my riding including members of St Bartholomew's Church in Sarnia. Their petition reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business. I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendments of the Retail Business Holidays Act of Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of a 'legal

holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I'm presenting the petition.

1600

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I've received a petition that has the expression of support from several thousand Ontario people. It reads as follows:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I have affixed my signature to this petition because I believe that its contents are correct and I am in full agreement with it.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition to the Parliament of Ontario that has been signed by more than 2,000 people in the province.

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas this proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of citizens and the communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we, in union with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of

members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have also affixed my own signature to this petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): I have a petition here from the riding of the Honourable Mr Mackenzie.

"Whereas the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act reflect the fact that more women, more members of visible minorities, more part-time employees are in the workforce today than ever before; and

"Whereas these workers deserve the same access to the right to join together and bargain collectively as workers have had in the past under the act, which has tended to serve workers in large industrial centres; and

"Whereas the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act will bring about greater worker participation and reduce conflict and confrontation in labour-management relations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"That the Ontario government and all members of the Legislature effect speedy passage of changes to the OLRA so as to promote better labour-management relations and to provide women, visible minorities and part-time workers with the same rights that other workers have under the act."

I hereto affix my name.

LAYOFFS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This is addressed to members of the provincial Parliament:

"Whereas the general level of unemployment in Ontario is extremely high and has caused severe hardship for individuals and families;

"Whereas hundreds of firms in Ontario have filed for bankruptcy and have had their employees join the ranks of those on the unemployment rolls;

"Whereas youth unemployment is higher in Ontario than in all other provinces;

"Whereas General Motors may announce several plant closings with resulting job losses this month and the presence of the Premier in the province is necessary to persuade General Motors to keep all of its operations in Ontario open,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to return immediately from his trip to Asia and to remain in North America to present Ontario GM workers' case to General Motors officials and to respond to important and urgent

questions about the Ontario economy in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

I'm affixing my signature to this petition.

LANDFILL

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has released a list of 21 proposed sites in the region of Peel as possible candidates for landfill, 15 of which are located in the town of Caledon; and

"Whereas the decision to prohibit the regions of the greater Toronto area from searching for landfill sites beyond their boundaries is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, section 5(3); and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario repeal Bill 143 in its entirety and allow a more democratic process for the consideration of future options for the disposal of greater Toronto area waste, particularly the consideration of disposal sites beyond the boundaries of the greater Toronto area, where a 'willing host' community exists who is interested in developing new disposal systems for greater Toronto area waste."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 32 residents of the county of Middlesex. They petition the Legislature of Ontario to set aside the Brant report, the arbitrator's report for the greater London area, because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority in Middlesex, it awards too extensive an annexation to the city of London and it will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life.

I have signed my name to this petition.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I beg leave to present a report from the standing committee on estimates.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): Mr Jackson from the standing committee on estimates reports the following resolutions:

"Resolved that supply in the following amounts to defray the expenses of the following ministries and offices be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1993:

"The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the ministry administration program, operating \$24,660,600"—

Interjection: Dispense.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Dispense.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TORONTO ISLANDS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA ZONE RÉSIDENTIELLE DES ÎLES DE TORONTO

Deferred vote on the motion for second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands / Loi concernant les îles Algonquin et Ward's et concernant l'administration de la zone résidentielle des îles de Toronto.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): This is a deferred vote from yesterday. There will be a five-minute bell. Call in the members.

The division bells rang from 1611 to 1616.

The Acting Speaker: We are now dealing with a deferred vote from yesterday. It has been moved by Mr Cooke for second reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands. All those in favour of Mr Cooke's motion will please rise one at a time to be recognized by the clerk.

Ayes

Abel, Akande, Allen, Bisson, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Farnan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Klopp, Kormos;

Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wessinger, White, Wildman, Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The Acting Speaker: All those opposed to Mr Cooke's motion will please rise one at a time to be identified by the clerk.

Nays

Arnott, Bradley, Callahan, Caplan, Carr, Cousens; Cunningham, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harnick, Harris, Jordan, Mahoney, Marland, McClelland, Miclash, Morin, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Sola, Sorbara, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 58; the nays are 32.

The Acting Speaker: The ayes are 58; the nays are 32. I declare the motion carried.

Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Government House Leader): No, referred to the standing committee on general government.

The Acting Speaker: So referred, the standing committee on general government.

CITY OF BURLINGTON ACT, 1992

Mrs Sullivan moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Burlington.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is the motion carried? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

CITY OF OTTAWA ACT, 1992

Mrs Sullivan, on behalf of Mr Chiarelli, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Shall the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Only because I'm having some difficulty hearing the table when these are read off, I wonder if we might have some silence so we don't miss something on the way through here, please.

The Acting Speaker: Yes, I think the member brings a good point. There is a lot of private conversation going on in the chamber. I would ask, please respect those people who are attempting to do legislative business.

PINECREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ACT, 1992

Mr Miclash moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr44, An Act to revive Pinecrest Community Association.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

EILPRO HOLDINGS INC. ACT, 1992

Mr Mammoliti moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr49, An Act to revive Eilpro Holdings Inc.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

GRAND RIVER HOME IMPROVEMENTS BUILDING PRODUCTS, SUPPLIES AND SERVICES LTD. ACT, 1992

Mr Fletcher, on behalf of Mr Farnan, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr52, An Act to revive Grand River Home Improvements Building Products, Supplies and Services Ltd.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Will the member give us a short indication of what the bill is about?

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is acting in the absence of Mr Farnan.

Shall the motion for second reading carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

PETERBOROUGH
SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL ACT, 1992

Ms Carter moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr59, An Act to revive Peterborough Social Planning Council.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

FEFFERLAW DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED ACT, 1992

Mr Elston, on behalf of Mr Sorbara, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr62, An Act to revive Fefferlaw Developments Limited.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

1630

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF TORONTO (INCORPORATED) ACT, 1992

Mr Harris, on behalf of Mr Murdoch, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr67, An Act to revive Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association of Toronto (Incorporated).

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY ACT, 1992

Ms Murdock moved second reading of Bill Pr70, An Act respecting Nipissing University.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

The bill was also given third reading.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I do wish to say a few words on what is a very historic step forward for northern education, a very big day for Nipissing University, for North Bay and region.

The passage of legislation today giving degree-granting powers to North Bay's Nipissing University is truly a decision for which many have fought long and hard for a number of years. This is the first new university to be established in Ontario in some 20 years, so it's an event that happens only once every two decades. I hope members will consider it appropriate that I do say a few words.

I can tell you that the president, the faculty, the students, the board and many residents of North Bay are watching, in fact, in the auditorium at Nipissing University today as this event takes place.

It really is a fitting tribute to the many years of work and effort on behalf of the succession of boards, of faculty, of the entire community, particularly the city residents and, in fact, the councils and residents of communities up and down the Highway 11 corridor to the north of us and to the south of us.

I pay special tribute to them today, to the faculty and the students, and it really truly does recognize 25 years of outstanding higher education, fiscal management particularly, and academic excellence. So the Nipissing University Act, 1992, or Pr70, gives the new Nipissing University the power to confer its own degrees, after 25 years of affiliation with Laurentian University in Sudbury.

I want, as well, to thank the Parry Sound MPP, Ernie Eves, for his active support of our efforts over a number of years. I want to note perhaps the only two events in the whole development of this that came right at the very end, because it was the last 10 years that led to this. I want to thank the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the current minister of the NDP government, and the councils of the various universities who gave their approval, who facilitated this, who made this happen. And I thank the NDP members for their support today.

I do have, I suppose, one regret that you would expect, colleagues. This university is in my riding and I regret that both I and Mr Eves, who is second closest to this riding—

if having the leader of the opposition party sponsor this bill bothered the NDP; that was refused by the government. I've never heard of that before, when the institution or the bill deals with an institution in one's own riding. I thought it was a little petty and I'm disappointed in that, but I don't want that to cloud what is a very, very happy day and the support of the New Democratic Party—I want to say that—for this bill in having it come forward.

Finally, the second aspect that I think should be noted and on the record, and I'm sure the member for Sudbury would agree with me, I know the minister would and I know that the president of the delegation from the university that was at the committee would: While we're all delighted by the outcome, we were most distressed and disappointed by the very vitriolic and strong opposition from the Liberal Colleges and Universities critic, Hans Daigeler, in committee. But the bill has received the enthusiastic support of the New Democratic Party members and the Conservative Party members, and for that I'm very thankful, I know Nipissing is thankful and all those who've been involved are thankful.

I give you this assurance on behalf of them all: that you will be proud. You'll be proud of the academic achievements and you'll be proud of the fiscal management of Nipissing University, as we have been for the past 25 years, and I know for the next 25 or 50 years as well.

ONTARIO ROAD SAFETY CORPORATION ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ
DE LA SÉCURITÉ ROUTIÈRE DE L'ONTARIO

Mr Pouliot moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 39, An Act to establish the Ontario Road Safety Corporation and to amend certain Acts administered by the Minister of Transportation / Loi créant la Société de la sécurité routière de l'Ontario et modifiant certaines lois dont le ministre des Transports assure l'application.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Does the minister has some opening remarks?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): You will recall that on June 3, 1992, this government introduced Bill 39 for first reading in this House. The passage of Bill 39 establishes the Ontario Road Safety Corporation Act, which in turn provides the legislative means to create the Ontario Road Safety Corp, which is a new Ontario crown corporation that will be of substantial benefit to the people in Ontario. We need this Ontario Road Safety Corp. The time indeed has come to make our roads safer for every motorist in the province of Ontario.

The corporation will actively seek to establish coalitions and partnerships with the private sector, other governments, health organizations, safety, research and community interests, the police and all those who are committed to reducing collisions and improving road safety for the people in Ontario. Through new safety education and driver improvement programs, the corporation plans to reduce Ontario's traffic fatalities and injuries.

The corporation will also coordinate both government and private sector road safety and research programs

across the province to improve the awareness of safety objectives and delivery of safety programs, and will position itself to meet growing consumer demand for more flexible and cost-effective service delivery.

Through partnerships with safety groups, industry, researchers and community groups, the corporation will be able to develop new initiatives as well as enhance and implement initiatives currently under way, initiatives aimed at increasing safety on Ontario's roadways and improving customer service.

1640

These kinds of results are sorely needed. Every single year in our province, more than 1,200 people are killed on our roads. Another 120,000 people, the equivalent of the population of Kingston, are injured. On average, someone is killed somewhere on our provincial roads every seven hours. Every four and a half minutes, only slightly less time or approximately the same time that I will be speaking here today, someone is injured, often seriously, on Ontario roads.

Every year, more than \$4 billion is spent in this province on health care costs, property damage and lost income as a result of traffic collisions.

Ce quatre milliards de dollars, ce n'est que le montant qui peut être calculé. Mais, comment peut-on calculer, en dollars et en cents, les coûts personnels : les crises familiales, les peines et les douleurs qui persistent, les blessures douloureuses et souvent permanentes, entraînant des handicaps à vie et les revenus perdus à tout jamais ? C'est de nier ces dollars qu'on ne revoit ou qu'on ne verra plus jamais. Il n'y a aucune façon de calculer ce genre de traumatisme collectif, puisque toute la société en écope, tout le monde en souffre. Nous en voyons les preuves, fort malheureusement, tous les jours dans notre province.

Well, the situation is obviously critical, and our government is committed to doing something about this situation. We need to rectify the situation. It is time to act, and the Ontario Road Safety Corp will be a highly effective way of getting that long-awaited action started. We're not suggesting for a moment that the corporation be a panacea. It complements a number of initiatives this government is considering, but again, there are simply no overnight or magic solutions that will totally eliminate the current dilemma, the situation that is obvious on our roads. Most unfortunately, collisions are likely to continue to happen, but I see the road safety organization as a positive step, an effective way of attacking the problem.

Ours is not a record of excellence, but it has been a record of constant improvement, and the establishment of this corporation will give us the tools to enhance the situation even more.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the role that the corporation will play in support of this government's auto insurance reform package. I wish to repeat: The corporation will play a role in this government's auto insurance package. A lot of talk and studies went into this. It will marry well with the legislation that will be introduced by my colleague Brian Charlton.

This will be a catalyst in restoring a balance. Yes, protection, under the auspices of my colleague, will remain

the order of the day, and this will enable some people to have a few more dollars in their pocket, for it will involve motorists—the client group—and the insurance company. Our government recognizes the need for partnership.

It will have a positive effect on the overall cost of auto insurance in the province of Ontario.

In addition, to improve coordination and cooperation, we intend to work together so that we can reduce instances of uninsured drivers on our roads. It's not only a right, it's also a privilege to have access to the roads of Ontario. But there is an obligation for all concerned that we are responsible for and to the collective, for those around us. It will allow us to focus, through the corporation, to meet that obligation.

On ne le répétera jamais assez : la sécurité, c'est l'affaire de tous, c'est notre affaire. Cette phrase a beau être un cliché pour certains, mais elle s'applique très bien au contexte de la société routière. Personne ne devrait se soustraire à la conduite sécuritaire, qui doit devenir une préoccupation fondamentale pour tous les citoyens, et toutes les citoyennes aussi, bien sûr, de notre province.

By creating this corporation we will not see miracles, but we will see steady progress towards the day when safer drivers predominate. We will see changing attitudes towards safety which will in many cases be reflected in the behaviour of those who use our roads and highways: motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? Seeing none, further debate?

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): I listened as attentively as I could to remarks that the minister's ministry prepared for him to read into the record today on this corporation. I have a number of things on matters of principle that I want to bring to his attention as we begin the debate, but I think perhaps it might be worth the while of this Legislature to review a little bit of the history of why we are debating a bill that creates yet another bureaucratic structure, in which yet more civil servants will be hired to undertake activity that is in the main and for the most part already going on in Ontario.

I think the minister alluded to the fact that this bill has its real origins in the presentation of the NDP government's auto insurance policy, presented to this Parliament, my goodness, almost a year ago now. I think December 1991 was when the NDP brought forward its insurance policy. That in itself was quite an event because it was one of those occasions when the government made a huge reversal of public policy compared to what the New Democratic Party campaigned on when it sought the support of the people of Ontario over two years ago in the election campaign of the summer of 1990.

I recall as clearly as if it were yesterday that the New Democratic Party, under the dynamic leadership of Bob Rae and Peter Kormos, promised the province that if it were elected, it would bring in a system of public automobile insurance—driver-owned automobile insurance, as they called it. That was a firm promise. That has been something that the socialist party in Ontario had been committed to by way of party resolution for years and years and

years—20 years, I think, if I recall correctly my discussion about it with the Treasurer—a campaign commitment and a political commitment of some 20 years going back to the days when Dave Barrett, then the Premier of British Columbia, brought in public automobile insurance in British Columbia.

This was the centrepiece of the campaign, "If elected, we will deal conclusively with the question of automobile insurance and we will bring in public automobile insurance." Of course, they abandoned that as they abandoned so much of the fiction that characterized what they told the people during that election campaign. Nevertheless, they decided they wanted to do something with automobile insurance.

The interesting aspect of the bill we have before us today is that the government, having decided to do something with automobile insurance, needed some collateral initiatives, needed a few other sideshows in order to deflect all the public attention from what it was doing on automobile insurance. I know about this because our government as well, during our term of office—in fact in 1989—brought forward an insurance bill, and we too decided that in order to expand the initiative somewhat, we would bring forward some safety initiatives.

It's not very easy for the minister to give the accolades to this bill that it deserves because if he were frank and if he were truly honest, he would admit that this is just a little bit of a sideshow and a little bit of a diversion that accompanied an auto insurance bill that frankly has not really been very well received in the province of Ontario.

1650

The Acting Speaker: The Minister of Transportation on a point of order?

Hon Mr Pouliot: Yes. With respect, I don't wish to interrupt, but the member is an agent provocateur of the worst or the highest order. You know, he imputes motives—

The Acting Speaker: No. I'm sorry, it's not a point of order.

Hon Mr Pouliot: My integrity and my honesty were questioned directly by the member and I resent it, very much so, Mr Speaker, and ask you, with respect, for a ruling.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I heard nothing unparliamentary; it's not a point of order. You will have the opportunity in two minutes' questions and comments to question the honourable member on whatever statements he makes. However, he does have the floor. We must respect that. The member for York Centre, please.

Mr Sorbara: Apropos of the minister's comments, I'm reminded that yesterday, when I was putting some remarks to the Parliament on the question of the giveaway to the Toronto Island residents, as soon as I started to make the points, the opposition started to get up on these rather fallacious, rather inappropriate points of order. I simply beg the minister's indulgence. I propose to speak for about 25 minutes on this matter and then the floor will be his to put whatever questions or comments he chooses.

Let's get back to why this bill was brought forward. The Minister of Financial Institutions decides that they're

going to go forward with their new, revised insurance plan. So they want something else as well, some sideshow, some other diversionary activity, and they say, "Look, we can say that things are going to get better in Ontario if we say we are going to concentrate, as no other government has, on safety." So someone says: "Well, what shall we do? How shall we create a kind of a product? How can we emphasize this new commitment to safety?"

I have no idea who it was, but some official or other probably suggested in the middle of a meeting with the minister, "Why don't we create a corporation, an agency, some vehicle, to house our new initiatives in safety," and I imagine the minister's eyes lit up: "I could have yet another crown corporation, a new agency," the minister would say, "and I could give speeches all over Ontario, about this new, great"—what is it called?—"Ontario Road Safety Corp. I could give speeches about that all around the province, and when they criticize us on our auto insurance policy, I could say: 'Yes, but that's not the only thing we're doing. We're creating an Ontario Road Safety Corp.'"

Let me just, by the by, tell the minister what bad shape his own ministry is in. He's got a bill on the order paper. Already he's prepared some amendments, and as a courtesy, an appropriate courtesy, he's sending out the amendments to the critics, in the case of the Progressive Conservative Party David Turnbull, the member for York Mills, and in the case of our own party me, the member for York Centre.

So, surprise, I get a letter on my desk signed by the legislative assistant to the Minister of Transportation, on stationery from the Minister of Transportation, and the letter I received is addressed to Mr David Turnbull, York Mills etc. Right under that—remember, a letter addressed to David Turnbull—the salutation is, "Dear Mr Sorbara." Frankly, if they can't even send the mail out to the right people, I question their ability to operate an Ontario Road Safety Corp.

But let's look at what this road safety corporation is actually going to do. It's going to take over a number of activities even the minister himself admits are already going on in Ontario. We're already very active in his ministry in all the initiatives that now come under the umbrella of this new corporation, save and except that the minister is now going to have the opportunity to appoint a president of the corporation, who will probably make in the neighbourhood of \$120,000, and several members of the board of this corporation, all of whom will get the opportunity to get a per diem of I think the figure is now about \$225,000 for this type of crown agency every time they attend a meeting.

I'm not sure how that adds to safety in the province, but I want to tell my friend the minister one thing. I think it's clear from all of the authorities that there are three crucial things that go towards ensuring and enhancing safety on the roads of this province and every other jurisdiction in the world like it. The first is driver training. The second is the vehicle itself and how safe it is and the third—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It seems a shame that this government pays so little attention to its own legislation that it's not prepared to provide a quorum in this House.

The Acting Speaker: Could the clerk check if we do have a quorum please.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is present, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: A quorum is present. Could the honourable member for York Centre continue, please.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): You can't even count to 20, let alone beyond that.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Downsview isn't in his seat and he knows that interjections are out of order.

Mr Sorbara: Perhaps the member for Downsview will at some point stop shouting across the floor.

Mr Perruzza: Why do you allow that kind of disruption when he knows that a quorum is present?

The Acting Speaker: Order. Any member at any time can ask if a quorum is present. The honourable member for York Mills asked and was told a quorum was present. We resume the debate.

Mr Sorbara: As I was saying before the member for York Mills called for the quorum, there are three elements that really go into an honest evaluation of the safety of the roads in a province like Ontario. The first is driver training, and the minister's done nothing about that since he came to office, nor does his bill and his corporation do anything about that.

The second is the quality, the safety and the road-worthiness of vehicles. The minister has not done that and proposes to do nothing about that in his bill.

The third is the safety of the road network itself. There the minister has proved to be a very unproductive minister. If the Minister of Transportation really wanted to do something about safety on Ontario roads and highways, then he would have made strong arguments to his cabinet colleagues and to the Treasurer in particular to do something about the ever-shrinking capital budget for the construction of highways in Ontario.

The minister is the first in a long history of ministers to have his capital budget cut and cut and cut. Indeed, in the two years that he has held the office, the budget for capital construction on our highways has gone down by a full \$100 million. We have told him and the government time and time again that one of the ways to get the province out of this terrible, gripping recession is to put workers, and in particular to put construction workers, back to work and to deal with the crumbling infrastructure of this province.

I myself have pleaded with the minister to get on with the construction of Highway 407 through the greater Toronto area. There is virtually nothing going on on that highway. Every single major road in the Metropolitan Toronto area and the GTA is clogged. My God, you cannot go but five miles an hour on Highway 401 because Highway 407 isn't built. I don't think he has let two contracts

for furthering the construction of Highway 407 since he took responsibility for his portfolio.

That lack of construction, the congestion on our roads and the bad condition of our roads is something that the Minister of Transportation must take personal responsibility for. He makes a heart-rending statement about the impact of injury, the crippling injuries that sometimes happen on our highways. Yet he does nothing to further expand his capital budget so we can get on with building the roads we need right across the province.

When I think of it, the member sitting beside him, the member for Sudbury East, campaigned throughout northern Ontario on a promise, a political commitment, an election commitment, to build a four-lane highway between Toronto and Sudbury, the four-laning of Highway 69. It's something they said over and over again. Has one contract, I ask the minister, been let to create a four-lane highway between here and Sudbury? Absolutely nothing has been done. The minister's capital budget has been cut and cut and cut.

1700

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): You don't know what you are talking about, Greg, because you are never here.

Mr Sorbara: Well, we hear grumblings from the Minister of Northern Development. Appropriately, we hear nothing else from her except some whining.

So I say to my friend the Minister of Transportation—

Hon Mr Pouliot: Stop calling me your friend.

Mr Sorbara: —that if he really wanted to get on with highway safety, he would realize that the real issue in highway safety is the deterioration of our roads. But there's another aspect of this bill of particular interest to a constituency of people who are also being very poorly served by the Minister of Transportation.

He says he doesn't want me to call him his friend. I will not say then "my friend the Minister of Transportation."

It used to be in Ontario that when a person was ready to take his or her road test, he could go to an office of the Ministry of Transportation and make an appointment to be tested by a Ministry of Transportation examiner and expect to get an opportunity to take that test within a week, 10 days, two weeks or, at the most, three weeks. In an effort to save the Treasurer a little bit of money, the Minister of Transportation has allowed that budget to be slashed and cut. The reality in the province right now is that a driver who wants to get his or her licence will wait, in some cases, up to eight months and, on average, three or four months in order to get an opportunity to be examined.

The minister laughs that off. He pays no attention to it. The matter has been raised in the House on a number of occasions and the minister himself admits that the situation is deplorable. Yet what is he bringing forward to us for our consideration today? A bill that creates another corporation to serve as an umbrella to do all the things he's already doing in his ministry and, I tell him, not doing very well.

Imagine it, to wait four months to get an opportunity to take the test. For most kids, I'll tell the minister, this means the difference between passing and failing the test, because

what happens is, our kids take a course like the Young Drivers of Canada course and they pay a big buck to take that course. Then they go to apply for their test and they find, unfortunately, that they're not going to be able to take the test for four, five or six months. They get very little opportunity to drive between the time they finish their course and they take their test, and they fail their test. Then they're in a situation of having to buy another driver training course and wait yet another six months. This situation is deplorable and the minister's done nothing about it. He brings us a bill creating a corporation.

There's another group of people affected by this little initiative by the minister: all those people out there in the private sector who run offices to license motor vehicles and do the transfer of the licensing of motor vehicles for the driving public of Ontario. This little project does something in this regard that is beyond what is currently being carried on by the minister and the ministry. It transfers all responsibility for those licensing offices to this new corporation. In fact, it's a public takeover. It's an expropriation of these offices. These offices now can count the days before the minister and his new safety corporation take over those offices.

Now again, if the minister were a brutally honest man, he would tell the people in Ontario what he really plans to do as far as vehicle licensing is concerned. But since the minister won't do it, I'm going to take the opportunity to make the announcement myself, because actually what the minister plans to do is a pretty interesting initiative. The minister, in the next few months, will announce a pilot project pursuant to creating a whole series of automated teller machines in which the driving public will be able to renew their licences or acquire a new licence through the system that we commonly know as automated teller machines—banking machines.

Mr Pouliot: It's called the modern age.

Mr Sorbara: Well, the minister says it's called the modern age, and it sounds like a pretty interesting experiment.

I simply wonder out loud why the minister doesn't stand when he introduces this bill and say what he is really going to do. He's going to eliminate over the course of time those motor vehicle licensing offices and replace them with new technology where the driving public is going to be able to insert a card, perhaps the driving licence—I don't have all the details on the system—in a machine and key in a personal information number and have a licence renewed or pay a fine or do a whole series of things.

I invite the minister to stand up at any time during this debate and deny that this pilot project is about to be launched some time over the course of the next three or four months in Ontario. If that's what you're going to do, why don't you tell us about it, instead of all the drivel you give us saying, "Through this corporation, we are going to be enhancing safety and undertaking research of the kind never before undertaken in Ontario"? Most of the things this corporation is going to do are already being undertaken.

The real news, the great new information is that the minister is going to be replacing motor vehicle licensing offices first with a pilot project and then, if successful, with a whole series of automated teller machines, which are going to serve perhaps in a better way, I tell the minister. I don't want to be the judge of it till I see the operation of the project, these automated teller machines that are going to replace the licensing offices that most of us know and have used to renew our licences on an annual basis and our driving licences on a three-year basis.

Just apropos renewing our licences on a three-year basis, the other information the minister should have been announcing today is that the government, in an effort to recover more cash immediately, is going to move from a three-year licence to a five-year licence. That's what's going to happen. We're going to hear the announcement about that in the next little while.

It's going to mean that the driving public pays a bigger sum up front. You pay for five years instead of three years. I expect the cost is going to go up as well, and that's going to be part of the strategy that the Treasurer is going to use to deal with his deficit problems this year. It really doesn't get you much more money, but we're going to have our drivers' licences for five years now instead of three.

That's real, hard information. That's the kind of thing the minister should have stood up and said when he introduced this wonderful new corporation to enhance safety in the province of Ontario.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Why don't they just charge them for life and get it over with?

Mr Sorbara: My friend from Etobicoke West says, "Why don't they just charge for life and get it over with?" It may well be that the budgetary problems of the Treasurer are so difficult they may even consider that.

But for the time being I announce, on behalf of the Minister of Transportation, that soon Ontario drivers will be renewing their licences for a period of five years rather than three years, at a significantly enhanced price, certainly at least two fifths more, because we'll be paying for five years of our driving privilege rather than three.

1710

But other than those initiatives, there's nothing really to say about this bill, other than, why in the world would the Minister of Transportation go through all of the hoopla and all of the expense and all of the time and all of the machinations to create a corporation and put under it the very things that are already going on? I think it's regrettable that the minister has allowed himself to be sold this bill of goods.

He's not doing anything that he couldn't do immediately, right now, at this very moment, under the structures that he already has. He can create the automated teller machines without this corporation. He can give us five-year drivers' licences without this corporation, but there are a couple of things that he should be doing that he's not doing and, again, he doesn't need the corporation to do it.

First of all, you should be solving the problem of a six-month wait in order to take your driving test. That's urgent, I tell my friend Gilles Pouliot. That is very impor-

tant. It's important to your children, it's important to my children and it's particularly important to those people who need to get a driving licence in order to get a job, and that's something that he's not doing.

Second, he needs desperately to get some money to get on with road reconstruction and new road construction. That is the single most important thing that he could be doing in order to enhance safety on our roads. I tell you, the number of accidents that happen in this province, and in particular in the greater Toronto area, are caused primarily by congestion, by overloading of our highways, by drivers driving too fast because of the frustration of being caught in traffic for hour after hour. It doesn't matter whether you're on the Don Valley Parkway, on the Queen Elizabeth Way or on Highway 401; those systems are not working now.

The minister could be a hero in Ontario. The minister could be a true hero if he would simply some time, over the course of the next couple of months, the next couple of weeks, stand in his place and say that he has secured a billion-dollar commitment to put construction workers back to work and build the highway facilities and the rapid transit facilities that are so desperately needed.

If the minister would do that, we over on this side would say to him: We applaud you and we will help you get those projects in place as soon as possible. We will move heaven and earth so that those projects can move forward.

Right now, in my own riding, there are thousands and thousands of construction workers waiting for one word from the Minister of Transportation that he is going to start spending again in Ontario and building the roads that we need. Until the minister does that, I simply want to tell him, in conclusion, that he cannot satisfy the people of Ontario and certainly he cannot fulfil his responsibilities as a minister by giving us a new crown corporation, a new board of directors, a new president, and giving it the sweet title of the Ontario Road Safety Corp. It does nothing. It doesn't add one iota of effect. It doesn't stop one accident. It doesn't enhance one piece of roadway. It does nothing other than give the minister an opportunity to put something on his CV as he looks for new work after the next election.

In view of the fact that there is all-party agreement to adjourn this debate at 15 minutes after 5 so that we can expeditiously deal with the bill to prohibit the purchase of lottery tickets by minors in the province of Ontario, a bill presented in this House by my good friend the member for Mississauga West, in response to a terrible little crisis created by this government, I would now move that we adjourn this debate.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Sorbara moves the adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Orders of the day?

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, I'd like unanimous consent to do the 90th order.

The Deputy Speaker: Unanimous consent? Agreed.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LOTERIES
DE L'ONTARIO

Mr Mahoney moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 92, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société des loteries de l'Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Mahoney has moved second reading of Bill 92. Mr Mahoney, you have—

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I'd just like to make a couple of brief opening remarks, and there has been agreement to have about 15 minutes for each caucus to address this bill and the concerns that have generated the bill to be presented to this House. So I will just make some opening remarks and then pass it on and, I believe, have the pleasure of wrapping up the debate.

I'm told by people in this place that this is a very historic situation. The Clerk has done some research that shows me that in the 200 years of this place operating—

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Oh, God.

Mr Mahoney: —there have been—Mr Sorbara, I know you can't stand this because you didn't think of it, so just have a nice day.

There have been 14 private bills that have been passed in this House, and so as a result of that—I guess I didn't really understand the significance of it, and I appreciate the cooperation from all sides.

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): The NDP are very co-operative.

Mr Mahoney: I'll try to be nice if you do.

The importance of this bill, and I don't even see it as a partisan issue at all; in fact, I said the other day in the House that it really is my belief that there could be 129 other names on this piece of legislation, because I would be quite shocked to find that any member of the Legislature would not support it. I think that, having talked to many of them, they do. So I don't see it as a partisan issue; rather an issue that we're all concerned about, that I in fairness think and hope happened inadvertently.

The fact was that the lottery corporation came out with a bill allowing sporting betting to take place in any of their operations where a terminal existed, and then recognizing that while there was a policy to prohibit the sale to people under the age of 18, there was no law, and the policy had never been enforced in the province of Ontario. So I think there was a lot of surprise that occurred as a result of it.

I asked the staff who draft the bills to do really yeoman service in preparing this bill in a morning and to keep it simple, and I'd just like to read into the record what the bill says. The first is that it's An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act as follows:

“8.1(1) No person authorized to sell lottery tickets, and no person acting on such person's behalf, shall sell a lottery ticket to a person under 18 years of age.”

“(2) The corporation”—that is, the Ontario Lottery Corp—“shall revoke the authorization in the event of a contravention of subsection (1).”

This is not an attempt to place any added burden on the retail sector, but rather to say to the retail sector that we don't want our young people gambling on professional sports, and if the retail sector decides to violate that they run the risk of losing their very lucrative licence to sell lottery tickets to people over the age of 18.

With those brief remarks and introduction of the bill—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Ontario should thank Steve Mahoney.

Mr Mahoney: Thank you, Mr Bradley.

I'm going to take my seat and invite other members in this place to share comments on this. Frankly, it's my hope and my understanding that we'll be doing second reading of this bill today, followed by a request to do unanimous consent to do third reading, and that early next week the Lieutenant Governor will come in this place to give royal assent.

I'm just delighted that the House leader of the government and the House leader of the Conservative Party along with my House leader have come to this agreement, because I think it's a critical issue of real importance—not a political issue, but an issue of social value that for once we all together as elected representatives can show the people of this province that we've actually found something we can all agree on and work together on. So I look forward to finishing and wrapping up at the conclusion of this debate today.

1720

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I'm very pleased to rise on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party—

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Hold on for a minute. I don't believe the announcement was made that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the member for Mississauga South has given notice of her dissatisfaction with the answer to her question given by the Minister of Culture and Communications concerning TVOntario. This matter will be debated tonight at 6 o'clock.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LOTERIES
DE L'ONTARIO

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, I forgot to ask for unanimous consent that we were going to divide the time till 6 at 15 minutes for each party.

The Deputy Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

Mr Arnott: I am very pleased to speak this afternoon on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party and as critic for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, and to speak on behalf of the people of Wellington, who I'm so privileged to represent, to Bill Pr92, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, a private member's bill

which has been presented to this House by Mr Mahoney, the member for Mississauga West.

The bill amends the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act by prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. The contravention of the bill would result in the revocation of the authorization to sell lottery tickets. A simple bill but a very important bill, presented by the member for Mississauga West, who in his own unique way has promoted this bill for a number of weeks with the government, and the government has finally, after quite a number of weeks, seen the wisdom of it and has given its consideration to proceed with this bill, hopefully passing third reading today.

Our caucus supports this bill very, very strongly. We've supported this concept in principle for years. Last June, I guess, in a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, I asked the government about the whole issue of children's access to gambling opportunities, because I was very concerned about a Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, through the Ontario Lottery Corp pilot project, which set up coin-operated ticket vending machines in the communities of Windsor, Sarnia, Chatham and London. It's my understanding that those machines are still in place as a pilot project and today children continue to have the opportunity, if they wish, to buy lottery tickets with coins.

This pilot project appears to be totally inconsistent with the government's support of this bill and I'd like to use a brief part of my time this afternoon to call upon the Minister of Tourism and Recreation to instruct the Ontario Lottery Corp, upon passage of this bill, to immediately cancel the pilot project and announce to this House that he will not proceed in any way with these coin-operated ticket vending machines because these coin-operated ticket vending machines mean that children have absolutely no restriction on lottery tickets of all sorts. I put him on notice on that particular issue.

This Sport Select lottery, Pro Line, which is promoted here by Mr Don Cherry, is clearly geared towards children, as has been stated in this House, and I hope that the lottery corporation, on the instructions of the minister, re-evaluates this entire concept and this entire program.

Last Tuesday, I had a question to the acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation and I asked him why he was dragging his feet on this issue and did he support the concept of children gambling, and he came back with a rather negative answer, but I'm pleased that he has in fact responded to the concerns that have been expressed to the government.

I want to conclude, I suppose, by congratulating the member for Mississauga West. As he said, there aren't many private members' bills that are passed by the government. I would think private members' bills passed by opposition members over the past 200 years would be very, very few indeed, and this is quite a coup. I would conclude with that, Mr Speaker, and thank you very much.

Hon Mr Cooke: I'll be very brief. I want to congratulate the member for putting forward his legislation and for pursuing it in such an aggressive way as he has over the last few weeks.

Mr Bradley: And he's been so complimentary of you lately.

Hon Mr Cooke: Yes? When?

Since the minister is unable to be here, I just want to get a couple of things on the record. Number one, what this bill does is make it very clear that not only will it be the policy of the Ontario Lottery Corp, but it will be the law of the province that no one under the age of 18 will be able to purchase lottery tickets. I'm informed by the Ontario Lottery Corp that this has been the policy of the corporation for quite some time.

I certainly agree with the member that it's one thing to enforce a policy. Of course, in this respect, we're relying on corner stores and outlets from one end of the province to the other that want to follow policy but on occasion may not, and obviously haven't. It's much easier for them to say, "Not only is it the policy of the government, the policy of the Ontario Lottery Corp, but it's the law of the province of Ontario that we cannot sell lottery tickets to young people under the age of 18."

I think this is appropriate. I think it's a good step.

I want to comment as well not only on this piece of legislation, which will not only get second reading this afternoon but will get third reading, but we hope to arrange for this and other pieces of legislation to get royal assent next week.

I think the process here is something we should attempt to do on a more regular basis. There are ideas that come from opposition parties that are worthy of consideration. I think if we do this more often, then you will see private members' bills not just used for political purposes but also because they might actually become law.

In this respect, I can tell members of the Legislature that we are looking at other private members' bills that have been dealt with in private members' hour. We hope by next week we will have an opportunity to report to the opposition parties which additional private members' bills will be passed into law before the end of this session. In fact, it's my expectation that we will pass more private members' legislation in this fall sitting of the Legislature than has been passed in the entire history of the Ontario Legislature. I think that's an important step.

I think we need to look further at some additional items. I think we should look at changes to the rules that set up a private members' bills committee. Instead of going to a standing committee where private members' bills can be bumped when government legislation or other items come into a committee, if a committee is set up strictly to deal with private members' bills, I think this would give that legislation a different status and it would be dealt with in a more serious way.

I'm pleased to be speaking on behalf of the government to indicate our support. Again, no matter how difficult this is, I congratulate the member for this initiative.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Bradley: Thank you for this opportunity to speak and to congratulate the member for Mississauga West on the initiative he has taken. This is an example for members

of the Legislature and perhaps for the people of this province to see how one individual member can discover that a problem exists. Some of us have seen the problem as well, but he decided he would take it upon himself to raise the issue in the Legislative Assembly and do so in a persistent method.

I've watched him over the past several days as he has asked the questions of various ministers, the government House leader, the acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The manner in which he has handled this has been exemplary. I think we can describe him as a bulldog in dealing with this issue, because he feels it's extremely important to young people in this province and to the parents of young people in this province.

We're at a very difficult time in our economy at the present time and I believe we have to carefully spend the dollars we happen to have in this province. For this reason, I think when a member discovers, as the member for Mississauga West has, that there is a genuine problem and he's prepared to pursue it, it is fitting that the end is the bill being introduced by the member, the government House leader and the leader of the Conservative Party agreeing that the bill shall be processed, and a relatively brief debate this afternoon, because there is a consensus.

There is no question the bill is needed. To watch young people at pinball parlours is annoying enough, but to watch them engaging in this kind of betting, which can be quite expensive for them, is discouraging, using their lunch money, as the member has mentioned, or other money they might have, to gamble it away, to squander it away on such a game.

1730

The member has used an experience of his own family, where he has discussed this with his own children and with others who are friends of his children. To determine the exact extent of the problem, he's come up with a very straightforward solution, and I think it speaks well of the Legislative Assembly as a whole this afternoon that we are debating this briefly, agreeing to it.

Certainly, I would be happy to pay tribute to my colleague the Liberal member for Mississauga West, Steve Mahoney, on this initiative, which he has carried not only in this House but through various news programs across the province where he has clearly articulated the case in favour of this legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I would also like to compliment the member for Mississauga Centre—

Mr Mahoney: West.

Mr Stockwell: —and say to him that he has done a superb job in bringing this forward. The member for Mississauga Centre has proven that any member can work diligently with all parties and get unanimous consent to bring an issue like this to bear. He has also proven that we in opposition can sometimes make a difference.

I would like to move on and just make a couple of quick points. I agree with the member for Mississauga West when he suggests that anyone could have sponsored this motion, because no one believes in gambling by chil-

dren, whether it's their lunch money or their stolen money or whatever it may be. I mean, obviously it's not something that I think we should be participating in.

But I do want to talk about the game itself. It gives me an opportunity to just make a few points that I'd like to get forward on this issue. I think on this lottery, this sports lottery, it's really a public fleecing in a lot of respects. It's put together by the government, and I'd like the tourism minister to look into it, because it really bugs me that the odds are so short on this betting, that the return is so small for the amount of money that you have to put up.

Nowhere could you go, including the racetrack or Las Vegas or Atlantic City or, in the future, Windsor, and get these kinds of lousy odds for this kind of money you're putting forward. Really what it comes down to is, you know, it's really a process to gamble by, but the odds that the government is giving are not what would be considered reasonable odds.

Disproportionately they're gaining more revenue and the real chance of the game is, in my opinion, ruined because the odds that they're giving are so short, so narrow, and the government is going to win disproportionately more often than a place like Las Vegas or Atlantic City or the racetrack.

That bothers me to some degree, because if you're going to go into these games of chance or betting, I think you should go into them with the same rules and requirements that other gambling areas go into them with. The way they've gone into this particular concept has, in my opinion, shortchanged the people in the province of Ontario, because they're asking them to gamble on sporting events, they're giving them an access to gamble, but they're not giving them a fair return on that gambling. They're not giving them fair odds, and the returns are going to be very negligible compared to a standard bet that you place at the racetrack or elsewhere.

I just want to go on the record that if you're going to get into gambling like this, like you have, you should have the same requirements that you put upon other gambling operations. I use for example the racetrack and so on. I want to get that on the record because it just frustrates me that government now says, "You can get into the gambling game and we'll operate it," and you've got better luck going to a bookie or a racetrack than you have at picking this process that is government sanctioned.

It really is hilarious that the government-sanctioned betting has shorter odds than a bookie or the racetrack. That to me is not reasonable, because people are going to bet when the government is running it, thinking that it's the fairest, most equitable treatment they're going to get and it's exactly the opposite.

The worst bet you can make is this bet. The least chance of winning is this bet and the return on winning, the shortest return, is this bet. That kind of infuriates me. There is money to be made at this, and I think what they're doing is they're just making a heck of a lot more money by not allowing what I would consider is a reasonable wage to be made.

I would also like to say that the member for Mississauga Centre has done an exceptionally good job, and I

wish him all the best in putting forward his new spin on this as it's done. He can take a lot of bows for the work he's done. Yeoman service, Mr Member.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): I beg the indulgence of the House again. I have a severe cold so my voice is a bit on the low side. I shall endeavour to respond, however, as I might, to this Bill 92.

I think I should begin by applauding the efforts of the honourable member for Mississauga West for his tenacity in putting forth what I consider to be a very important principle, and that is the principle that we in this House need to be caring and concerned about the future of our young people.

In fact it should be to us almost a commandment that for the future generations we must care and give due consideration to the issues that are going to impact their lives and provide the framework for their future. I believe that in Bill 92 what we have is an earnest effort on the part of the member for Mississauga West to ensure that we give young people a good start in life.

Where do I begin? As I look over the issue of gambling in the province of Ontario, I can look back perhaps a decade when I began my work with low-income and poor people across the province of Ontario. I remember the debates even then, as we looked at the Ontario Lottery Corp and how the lottery corporation was suggesting that we should implement newer and bigger lotteries and invite people to give more and more money into the public coffers.

In those days I was on public record and said very clearly that such a move in such a direction was deleterious to the future of this province, that we could not continue to allow people to invest in the lottery corporation and thereby basically lose their money when so many people were finding hardship and difficulties in that recession in the early 1980s.

Unfortunately, those words that I spoke in those days on the public record were not taken into consideration by those in power then, and we have perpetuated that policy in a sense. We have said that the lottery corporation must continue to do the kind of work that it's doing.

I have to say I have great qualms and difficulties with that, not the least of which, as you know, I have indicated my lack of support for the issue of casino gambling in the province. But more to the point in terms of Bill 92, at least we are saying with Bill 92 that there is some sense in which we cannot have young people forfeiting their money and their earnings or the money and the earnings of their families in this particular regard. We cannot allow our children to become dependent on a habit which has been proven to be addictive to many people in society.

By allowing this private member's bill to be put forward by the honourable member for Mississauga West, and by having the support, as we do, from all sides of the House to this intent, I believe that we are making a statement which is fundamental and important about our attitude towards gambling.

I think it is far from being a definitive statement. I think it is necessary for us to go even further. To wit, I would lead us to some consideration of other jurisdictions. For instance, I would bring to mind and to the mind of this

body today in this Legislature the fact that there are other experiences we can draw upon, the experience, for instance, of families in New Brunswick, where video terminals are now available in corner bars and corner stores, and we are finding people of every age engaging in gambling activity. I myself have had the opportunity to speak with families who have lost all their savings through these local gambling outlets.

1740

There is abundant evidence now, many different reports that have been done in the United States that have proven that video terminal gambling is probably the most addictive of all gambling. So it is that I am very concerned that, yes, this is a major step forward. But it is not enough. We must ensure that we do not allow for video terminals and other kinds of machines to be used by the Ontario Lottery Corp in corner stores or corner bars or restaurants. To that end, we need to have some support by the minister when she is responding to the House on this and many issues surrounding the gambling area.

I want to talk for a moment, if I might, about quality of life. It is my very firm and fundamental belief that we, as legislators, are here primarily not only to ensure order and good government in this province but to ensure quality of life for the people of Ontario, and that of course means many things and many activities and many involvements. Surely when we think of quality of life, we think of those activities that people give themselves to within our society which will, by their very nature, build up that society and build up that individual character and that individual human being.

Gambling is something which is antithetical to this fundamental understanding, for in gambling one is involved in primarily a compulsion of greed. One wants to receive something for nothing. One wants to further one's opportunities in the hope of gaining far more than he or she puts in, and so it is fundamentally wrong. If it is fundamentally wrong for an 18-year-old to gamble, I would even contend that it is wrong for us as a Legislature to even promote gambling. Therefore, I would say that we need to take a stronger hand in this and we need to begin to limit very strictly the activities of gambling that have been allowed in our society.

So it is that I speak to the fundamentals of society: how our society operates, what activities are good activities that will build up society and build up individuals within that society. I want to say that it is absolutely paramount for us in this Legislature to take significant issue with all the activities that surround gaming and gambling.

I am reminded of a family that I spoke to about two months ago, or perhaps a month and a half ago. They had lost all their money because of gambling and they were at the point where they were going to have to sell their home, which was the last thing they could claim was their own. In doing this last act, in selling their home, there was a sense of having lost a dream for that family and having lost the ability to be able to make sure that the members of the family were cared for. There was a sense of desolation, a sense of unreality for them, and a sense that somehow they had been betrayed. Yes, they had betrayed themselves

in their actions in gambling, but somehow they had gotten involved in something that they did not know was going to be detrimental to their health: their spiritual, their emotional, their psychological health.

When I see examples like that, it reminds me of the sacred cause that we have as legislators to care very particularly, in minute particularities, about the lives of the people of this province and how they live their lives and what people give their lives to. Surely we can give an example to people by limiting involvement in gambling by making sure that whatever opportunities are to be allowed within our society, they are allowed within a framework which will not be destructive to that overall society and the individual members within that society.

I want to commend again, if I might, the member for Mississauga West for his tenacity and his foresight in bringing forth this bill. I want to commend those members of the House, and they are many throughout this House, who support this bill and want to see this bill put through with expedition.

Lastly, I want to say to the honourable House leader of the government, my thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak in this debate and to put forth my views on this most lamentable practice, which in my view needs to be restricted and needs to put into some very strong regulations.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate?

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): It is a pleasure today to rise and speak in support of my colleague the member for Mississauga West and his Bill 92, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, which reads as follows:

"The bill amends the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act by prohibiting the sale of lottery tickets to minors. A contravention of the bill would result in the revocation of the authorization to sell lottery tickets."

I'm sure Mr Mahoney is very appreciative of the fact that we're all standing here applauding his initiative in bringing forward this private member's bill and in particular, I think, the fact that there has existed for a long time now, I guess about 17 years since the original lottery corporation act was passed in this province, this very serious loophole.

For all of the seven years that Mr Mahoney and I were on Mississauga city council together, we shared a number of initiatives where we supported each other in trying to make changes and where we were successful, I believe, in making improvements for those constituents we represent in the city of Mississauga. In this case, I believe the member for Mississauga West has shown initiative that we hope will protect minors across this province. We recognize that in supporting the bill, like any bill, it's only going to be as effective as the enforcement of the content of the bill, and where we're looking at the sale of lottery tickets, we're looking at thousands of outlets across this province and we are going to be dependent on the responsibility and the judgement of the people who operate those lottery ticket outlets today.

We know that in spite of legislation prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors, it still happens. We know

it happens in a number of ways, sometimes directly to those minors, sometimes by the minors giving their money to someone of a legal age to go and procure alcoholic beverages for them.

I'm sure those eventualities will not ever be resolved by a piece of legislation passed by this House. We will still have minors investing, unfortunately, their money from whatever source they're able to obtain it in the purchase of lottery tickets in different forms by having their older and eligible friends and relatives purchase those tickets for them.

But having said that, at least when we know of those violations and those infractions, which in the long run really do a great deal of damage to our young people, at least when those occasions occur, with this legislation now there will be a remedy. I almost wish the remedy was more severe than the revocation of the authorization to sell lottery tickets.

1750

I don't know from any personal information that I have just how lucrative the sale of lottery tickets is for an individual vendor. Personally, I feel that the contravention of this bill should also have with it a further punitive measure such as a substantial fine.

I realize with the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors, the loss of their licence means the loss of their business totally in an establishment that sells alcoholic beverages, and that would mean their business gone completely.

With these vendors of lottery tickets of course it's a small portion of their overall business, whether it's a variety store or some other type of retail outlet. For a lot of people, it is not their only business, so the revocation of their licence to sell, while it may be some impediment to them, I think it would be great if the government saw fit, through regulation, to add to the licence revocation a substantial punitive measure such as a sizeable fine that would add to the deterrent quality and direction of this bill.

Finally, in closing, I would simply say again to the member for Mississauga West that I commend him for his initiative and his forthright direction. When he found there was a problem that existed—one which none of the other 129 members in this House knew about, and consequently I think he is to be commended—once he knew about the problem, he did something about it.

It's very interesting. I have not received any calls from parents or individuals complaining about the sale of lottery tickets to minors, and I think it's very important that all of us share the responsibility of acting when something is wrong and we act to correct it. That is simply what the member for Mississauga West has done, and I agree with the direction of his private member's Bill 92 wholeheartedly and congratulate him for that.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate? If not, would you wish to wrap up the debate?

Mr Mahoney: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and thank you to all my colleagues for their support and their kind remarks.

I must tell you that something doesn't always just happen alone. There were a number of people with whom I

talked about the issue before actually asking that the bill be drafted, and I want to give credit to my colleague the member for Mississauga North, Steven Offer, who was the first one to suggest, when he saw the issue and the question that I asked, that it could perhaps be a good private member's bill.

I appreciate that. It just shows the kind of teamwork that we have in the Liberal caucus, the fact that we work together to try to resolve these problems, and I also want to say that it shows the kind of teamwork that we have in the Legislature, the fact that there is this agreement.

There is someone else I want to pay a tribute to, someone who's gone through a very rough time in the past week or 10 days. I'm not afraid to say that the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation was in support of this bill, and indeed came to my office to tell me that he was supportive of the bill and that he would do what he could to help out, so I appreciate that.

Even though there was some reluctance, I think it's a natural thing perhaps for a government—and I don't mean this in a partisan way—to be defensive when faced with an issue. There's a standard reaction that you say, "Yeah, well, maybe this should happen or that should happen or maybe the age should be lower," or whatever. I think that's probably a natural thing just because of the nature of the combativeness that takes place in this House and in this partisan business that we engage in.

But the bottom line of all of this when you cut through it all, and I think the reason that there is unanimous agreement to deal with this in this way, is the fact that this particular lottery is more than just a lottery. This is a lottery that, in my view—and, I say in fairness, in an inadvertent way—has been designed to attract young people. I heard a psychologist on a radio show who said it was specifically targeted to young males between the ages of 14 and 18 who, you can see when you think about that, may be the ones who are most interested in the sporting activities of football and hockey.

I say, in fairness, it may have been inadvertent, but it uses terms like "Now you rookies will show the rookies how to get started," and it really focuses on the sports heroes our young people are so interested in today. I think it's more than just a lottery, but you can't single out a lottery. Therefore, the bill really has to encompass all lotteries.

I say to the young people, some of whom may think it is unfair that we're prohibiting them from doing this, just to think about this—to think about the use of their money and what it might lead to. As the member for Etobicoke West pointed out, this is not even a good bet for an adult, frankly, when you look at the odds and all that kind of thing, and it's just a waste of money.

I'm delighted that we have seen our way clear in six sessional days, which I think might be a record. Really the credit for that does not belong to me. It belongs to the fact that it's such a serious issue. The media have treated it seriously. The government has treated it seriously, albeit with some objections, but it has treated it seriously. Opposition members on both sides here in the Conservative and

Liberal parties have rallied around the issue because it is the kids we're concerned about. That's the important thing.

We can't have our young people spending their lunch money on gambling. It's totally unreasonable to turn our corner stores into bookie joints. It's unnecessary, even though it, along with other lotteries, will generate hundreds of millions of dollars for good things in the community. I recognize that and, frankly, if that money is used for those kinds of things, for charitable operations, for sport, for culture—I think it's accepted in the province that's a good way of raising those kinds of dollars—there have to be some rules. There have to be some lines that we're not prepared to cross as a society.

There are some people who would say we should do away with the lottery concept altogether. I understand that but I think as long as it's done in a good-natured way—I can remember the Premier making statements when he was in opposition that lotteries are a tax on the poor. I don't think that philosophy has particularly changed for many people today. As long as we put in place some rules, some regulations and some common sense, and as long as we say to our kids: "Look, there is no free lunch. There is no fast back. The way you get ahead in this world is through hard work"—

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: As my colleague the member for Brampton South says, there is lunch and we want you to spend your money on lunch and not waste it on gambling in the corner store.

Thank you to all members of the House for supporting this bill. I really appreciate the positive attitude of everyone involved.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Mahoney has moved second reading of Bill 92, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mr Mahoney: I'd like to move unanimous consent for third reading of Bill 92.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading? Agreed.

The bill was also given third reading.

1800

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Pursuant to standing order 55, I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, November 23, we will debate an opposition motion standing in the name of Mr Harris.

On Tuesday, November 24, we will consider a motion to extend the hours of meeting of the last eight sessional days commencing Monday, November 30. Following that, we will continue with second reading of the Ontario Road Safety Corporation Act, Bill 39. Following the vote on road safety, we will begin second reading of Bill 94, to empower Metro Toronto to enact its assessment plan.

On Wednesday, November 25, we will continue with debate on second reading of Bill 94, followed by second reading of Bill 31, the income tax amendment act.

On the morning of November 26, during private members' business, we will consider ballot item 33 standing in the name of Mr Villeneuve, and ballot item 34 standing in the name of Mr Mammoliti.

In the afternoon of November 26, we will give committee of the whole consideration to four bills comprising the advocacy package, Bill 74, Bill 108, Bill 109 and Bill 110.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 34, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

Pursuant to standing order 34(a), the member for Mississauga South has given notice of her dissatisfaction with the answer to her question given by the Minister of Culture and Communications concerning TVOntario.

The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister may reply for up to five minutes.

TVONTARIO EMPLOYEE

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I was dissatisfied with the answer given to me by the minister earlier today on the matter of whether an employee of TVOntario may use her postage meter for her union election campaign purposes.

Madam Minister, you can say whatever you like and you will, obviously; you have the last word today. But the people of Ontario will have the last word in the next election. We do not believe, in our PC caucus, that employees of a government agency should be able to campaign for union executive jobs by using the stamp meter which clearly indicates the sender, in this case TVOntario, with a return address to TVOntario. The stamp meter on this envelope reads as follows:

"TVOntario"; mailing address, "Box 300, Station G, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4T 2T1." That is on this envelope that was mailed to employees of TVOntario.

We feel that employees have no right to use the equipment of a publicly owned corporation to further their own union executive campaigns. The postage meter simply prints the stamp on the envelope and also the logo and mailing address of TVOntario. Does it say "TVO" on the envelope? Yes, it does. Does it give the TVOntario address? Yes, it does.

Do you think it is appropriate for a candidate for election to office in a union to receive permission from the director of human resources of TVOntario to distribute union campaign literature and use the TVO stamp meter? Why does TVO permit this use of its equipment? The rental of the postage meter is paid for by the taxpayers. Why couldn't this candidate use her own postage stamps? Where is her address, her return address, on this envelope?

The question was raised by me on behalf of a union member who is a member of NABET Local 700, which has received between 20 and 30 complaints from its members. I'm speaking on behalf of the union members.

In 1990, there was a public apology by TVOntario and a letter sent to the Ontario Labour Relations Board by TVO, agreeing to the terms of the admission of error in a situation involving this same employee. A local of this same union filed the original complaint with the Ontario

Labour Relations Board; a local of a union filed the complaint. The minister stated on the public record today that the 1990 union campaign literature was not in envelopes with the paycheques, but I have received calls stating the contrary. Who do we believe?

Certainly, TVO's own apology admits to the error in allowing campaign literature to be distributed with paycheques to certain employees. I read, for your benefit, TVO's letter, Madam Minister:

"TVOntario admits that some election material was distributed on behalf of Margaret Kaszecki-Pyron along with the paycheques of some members of NABET Local 700 during the week of November 5, 1990. TVOntario further admits that while unintentional, it was an unwarranted intrusion into the administration of the trade union to have permitted that material to be distributed with some employees' paycheques."

Those aren't my words. Those are the words of TVOntario. Further, TVOntario says it "sincerely regret" having involved itself in the internal affairs of NABET Local 700 and acknowledges that it erred in allowing the material to be distributed." End of quote from a letter signed by Mr Steven Droz of TVOntario, a letter to the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Finally, I want to say in closing that I think it is quite interesting that TVOntario acknowledged its error in 1990, while you seem to think you should stand in this House and defend this lack of judgement in this latest incident. Just imagine the situation if in the next provincial election you mailed your campaign literature in an envelope bearing the Legislative Assembly postmark, including the return address and provincial crest of your office at Queen's Park.

Even if you paid the postage yourself, the appearance would be that the taxpayers of Ontario had paid. This is a direct parallel. It's the implication of what has been done, and the perception, what it seems, to the recipient of that envelope with TVOntario's logo on it.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Your time has expired.

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): The member for Mississauga South is wasting taxpayers' money by making the House sit past its normal time in response to an issue on which she has clearly failed to do her homework.

The member is wrong regarding the use of a TVO envelope to contain union election campaign material. The envelope, a proof which the member was brandishing in the House earlier today and now, in actuality is an envelope with a TVO postage meter stamp, and that postage has been paid for by the union, not the taxpayers. The stamp itself includes the TVO logo and address. The cost of the mailing was cross-charged to NABET in accordance with TVO's cross-charging policy, and the account has been paid in full.

This is an incident which has proven that the member has failed on this issue to be a responsible critic of this portfolio, because all she has presented today are inaccuracies, untruths and innuendoes. In her attempt to embarrass

this government, she has only embarrassed herself and her party. Any statement that the member makes on the employee she has mentioned is predicated on the assumption that the employee has done something wrong. That is not the case here, as I have explained. I am shocked that the member would stoop to impugn a person's reputation in a matter that could have been clarified.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Marland: I take objection to the unparliamentary language of the minister, who suggested that I had used untruths. I ask you to review that as being unparliamentary language and ask the minister to withdraw it.

Hon Mrs Haslam: Mr Speaker, she is wrong.

The Deputy Speaker: Just a withdrawal. It costs nothing.

Hon Mrs Haslam: In the interest of parliamentary words, I will withdraw the word "untruth" when she is wrong. That is not the case here, as I have explained. She's predicated her attack on the employee on the assumption

that the employee has done something wrong, and that is not the case.

I am shocked that the member would stoop to impugn a person's reputation in a matter that could have been clarified with one simple phone call. It is regrettable that the member would not use her not-inconsiderable investigative skills and undoubted eloquence to support TVO, which is in the midst of its campaign membership drive.

Instead of offering her support to TVO—and by the way, I did not see her there last night when I was at TVO's MPPs night—she instead decides to call into question the management practices of this fine institution. How many memberships has she cost TVO through this underhanded behaviour?

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Are you finished? Would you like to continue? No?

It being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday, November 23, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1810.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|--|-------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber | Henderson, D. James | L | |
| Etobicoke-Rexdale | Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest | Stockwell, Chris | PC | |
| Fort William | McLeod, Lyn | L | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition |
| Fort York | Marchese, Rosario | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey | Murdoch, Bill | PC | |
| Guelph | Fletcher, Derek | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre | Sullivan, Barbara | L | |
| Halton North/-Nord | Duignan, Noel | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels |
| Hamilton East/-Est | Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail |
| Hamilton Mountain | Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND | Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora | Miclash, Frank | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles | Wilson, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Kitchener | Ferguson, Will | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew | Jordan, W. Leo | PC | |
| Lawrence | Cordiano, Joseph | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée. législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

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Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

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Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
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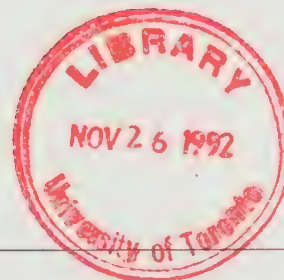
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 23 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 23 novembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 23 November 1992

The House met at 1333.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Today I attended the annual lobby of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses along with hundreds of women who came to share their tragic experiences with spousal abuse and how women are dying as the system fails them. They came with many questions and left with few answers. They left feeling frustrated, angry and bitter because the NDP government had betrayed them.

Today I want to raise some of their questions that received no answer. The first thing they wanted to know was why the Premier had abandoned them, why they were so low on his priority list that he couldn't spare a few minutes to hear their stories and why Premier Rae and most of his cabinet were not there.

They asked why police training on spousal abuse is not uniform and mandatory across the province. They wanted to know why the Solicitor General prepared an expensive, extensive police training manual which ignored men's violence towards women.

They wanted to know why, against the advice of abused women's groups, the Attorney General is pressing for family law clinics instead of a woman's right to individual legal aid.

They wanted to know why the government won't provide emergency child care for victims of spousal abuse.

They wanted to know when the government is going to increase support for advocacy, court support and counselling.

In 90 seconds I can only begin to touch on the two hours of questions asked by these women this morning. It's time this government engaged in action, not rhetoric, and gave these women some answers and some hope.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): Later today I will table in the House my private member's bill, An Act to establish the Rights of Victims of Crime. The bill is designed to assist all victims but especially those of sexual assault and spousal abuse by making the justice system more responsive to their immediate and ongoing needs.

For example, the bill guarantees the right of crime victims to be interviewed by an officer of the gender of their choice and contains a statutory presumption that sexual assault and spousal abuse result in emotional distress without leaving the burden of proof on the victim.

This legislation would also help prevent the kind of breakdown in our legal system from occurring which allowed a deranged murderer like Jonathan Yeo to tragically take the life of Nina de Villiers in my community, leaving her family to deal with the ongoing pain of her loss. Today Nina's mother, Priscilla, heads a group which

actively promotes the legal protection of crime victims' rights, a point which is also contained among the many jury recommendations of the Yeo inquest.

This morning, I met with representatives of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses. Their message was clear: Women in Ontario are more at risk now than ever before, and while politicians continue to promise action on their behalf, they fail to deliver.

Premier Rae, your absence from the OAITH lobby day was widely noted. However, as a reflection on the dozens of women who have died as a result of violent abuse and sexual assault since last year at this time, will you, Premier, today reaffirm your commitment to the rights of women victims in Ontario and support the crime victims' bill of rights act?

PETERBOROUGH ECONOMY

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): This year there are two ideas being implemented in Peterborough to help stimulate the local economy during the holiday season. We all know the benefits of shopping in our own community. Every dollar spent locally helps pay the earnings of people who live, work and shop there. It makes sense that we support our local merchants in these difficult times.

Shop Here First is a promotional campaign designed to keep Christmas shopping dollars in Peterborough. The campaign has two major components: interest-free shopping loans organized by the Bank of Montreal and service training organized by the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. The entire Peterborough retailing community has been invited to participate, making it the largest Shop Here First campaign in Canada.

The Festival of Trees Festcard established by the organizers of the Festival of Trees is also aimed at boosting the local economy by offering incentives to shoppers. Each Festcard costs \$10 and can be purchased at any chartered bank in Peterborough. When this card is used at designated retailers in the Peterborough area, consumers will receive a discount of 7%, the equivalent of the federal goods and services tax, on whatever they buy.

I am confident that local initiatives such as these will make a difference in real dollars to our community. I applaud these efforts.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr Gilles E. Morin (Carleton East): A bill was passed last week that bans the sale of lottery tickets to minors. This is a good thing, and I am pleased that the government and parties reacted so quickly. Some issues demand a quick resolution, especially when they involve the most vulnerable segments of our population.

I would like to know why other matters involving the exploitation of vulnerable persons are not addressed with such diligence. Why does the same sense of urgency not apply when it comes to fighting child poverty or helping low-income persons? Why are some commercial practices,

said to be unacceptable, allowed to continue while others are not? What is this government's order of priority?

Procrastination is not just this government's problem; all governments procrastinate. I realize that some policies cannot be implemented overnight, but it shouldn't take three years to bring about change. The protection of vulnerable citizens should always be a priority.

One of the main reasons the government exists is to protect citizens who cannot protect themselves or their interests. This role should not be distracted by other considerations and should be fulfilled as expeditiously as possible.

Government has the authority, the capacity and the means to act quickly on matters of great urgency. Even the most complex issues can be dealt with quickly when the political will exists.

1340

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): From day one the Interim Waste Authority has tried to get communities to like the idea of having a megadump. Well, we're not buying this idea.

I have here a confidential document from the ministry of the greater Toronto area and it outlines how the Interim Waste Authority will compensate those people living near the megadumps in York, Durham and Peel.

This document says each host community will have its own unique compensation concerns. It calls for planting trees to block the view of the dump. It calls for building community recreation centres. What for? To hold protests in, I suppose. It calls for air-filtering systems for homes in the area around the dump and money to improve windows in your home.

It also states that the Interim Waste Authority will give its commitment that a full range of impact-management measures will be conducted, including protection for property values, community monitoring and royalty payments to the host municipalities.

The IWA has done little until now to earn the trust of the people, because its commitment is worthless. There is only one concern the host communities have: Why them and why are the alternatives such as rail haul not being considered?

Planting trees will not make the dump go away. People know it's there. Property values cannot be protected and payments to municipalities are still unclear. Trying to buy acceptance of these dumps won't work. The people of York, Durham and Peel are not for sale.

DAVID "RED" WILSON

Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville): Last Saturday evening my wife and I attended the Charles E. Brooks Labour Community Service Award dinner. I'm proud to announce that this year's award winner was David "Red" Wilson.

Red, the vice-president of CAW Local 444 since 1982, has been a hard-working, dedicated trade unionist for over 25 years. He's been a steward, plant chairman and has been involved in contract negotiations since 1976. Since

1978, Red has played a lead role in substance abuse programs and has raised funds for the Brentwood recovery home.

Red has contributed much time and effort to providing affordable housing in our community as the first chairperson of the Charles Brooks co-op homes and as vice-chair of Windsor-Essex county community homes.

His assistance to youth includes being a founding member and director of Sports Club 444, raising over \$75,000 for recreation programs, helping establish the Sandwich teen action group and raising over \$60,000 for that organization.

He's currently a cabinet member of the United Way, a member of the Windsor citizen advisory group on bingos, the CAW council substance abuse committee and also a labour member on the board of referees of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

By his responsible and untiring commitment to the betterment of his coworkers and the people of the city of Windsor, Red Wilson is indeed a deserving recipient of the Charles E. Brooks Labour Community Service Award and it's a pleasure to acknowledge his contribution to our community.

LANDFILL

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): On Friday, to no one's surprise, the Interim Waste Authority came up with its short list of sites. In the few moments we have available, I can't even begin to touch on the matters, concerns and issues this raises, but I think one of the important points to note right from the outset is so well said by Mayor Bob Johnston of Georgina, "It's nice to hear all these platitudes." He noted that IWA officials were accompanied by armed officers and said as follows:

"It's interesting that instead of provincial politicians like the Minister of the Environment, Ruth Grier, we have officials here who are spouting the party line."

I'm not sure Mayor Johnston knew exactly how accurate he was when he talked about the party line, because the Interim Waste Authority is an extension of the New Democratic Party's line. It is a product of the minister's legislation and she bears full responsibility for it. Try as she might to wash her hands and stand apart from it and say, "Oh, this wasn't me," what we have here is flawed legislation resulting in flawed results, and Mrs Grier, as Minister of the Environment, alone bears full responsibility for it.

Another article from a paper:

"Money, population and politics are the determining factors in this charade. The whole process of site selection was flawed from the very beginning. Despite the extra time the IWA has spent in studying and revising the original data, we see no sign of professionalism."

Mr Speaker, it's unbelievable that after all this process by the citizen advisory committee set up by the Minister of Natural Resources, we could have a site sitting in the proposed boundaries of the Rouge Valley. You, sir, are sensitive to that, as are so many members. It's indicative of the haphazard, absolutely absurd fashion in which this government has handled this very important issue.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I rise to address a serious matter in my riding which involves alleged physical and sexual abuse of the three children of Kathy Gillespie.

Ministry of Community and Social Services officials conducted interviews with the children to determine whether the alleged abuse occurred and to determine who the perpetrator might be. Dr Christopher Padfield, an acknowledged expert in dealing with sexual abuse of children, concluded from his diagnostic assessment that sexual and physical abuse have likely occurred. Because of a ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeal, these children have been returned to the custody of their father, who resides in New Zealand.

I ask the Ministry of Community and Social Services to review this matter to ensure that the best interests of the children were the priority. Unfortunately, the Brockville children's aid concluded that the alleged abuses were unsubstantiated and it didn't have reasonable and probable grounds to determine that the children were abused. That conclusion is not satisfactory, given that Dr Padfield has stated that further diagnostic assessment and therapeutic sessions are required. He has even recommended that a family court clinic assessment be an urgent priority. Despite these recommendations, the CAS has refused to intervene, citing legal grounds.

I would ask that the minister, who I know cares deeply about these issues, review the circumstances of this matter at once and take appropriate action on behalf of these children. Time is of the essence, as the children are scheduled to return to New Zealand some time tomorrow.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): A magical time of year has arrived. This past Saturday in Niagara Falls, Mickey Mouse was on hand to switch the lights on for the annual Festival of Lights. This is a spectacular fireworks display over Niagara Falls as well. Thousands of children and their parents thrilled to this wonderful sight.

The Festival of Lights is also an annual event to celebrate the natural beauty of winter. The falls can be transformed, in the winter, into living sculptures, even more beautiful than in summer, forming a natural ice bridge as thick as 20 metres. Combined with a gentle mist over the park, you truly have a fairy tale winter wonderland.

The festival includes seven kilometres of lighting displays and many special events, such as a musical comedy in the historic cellars of Brights Wines and displays at the Niagara Parks Commission greenhouse.

This year we also have something very special, and it's new, and that is the Enchantment of Disney motion-light displays, and these are in the park, including Snow White, Fantasia, Beauty and the Beast, the Little Mermaid and Aladdin. I hope all the children out there will enjoy it.

Niagara also includes the very finest in accommodation, in dining, in shopping and in entertainment, so please come and visit.

1350

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY
AND RESPONSESONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD
CONSEIL ONTARIEN DE FORMATION
ET D'ADAPTATION DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):**

I rise to advise the House today of an important task that it is my duty and, I must say, my pleasure to perform. Later this afternoon I will be introducing a bill that has been greatly anticipated, namely, An Act to create the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board.

The creation of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, or OTAB, as it is familiarly known, is in fact an historic initiative that represents a bold step to reform Ontario's workforce development system. I believe that OTAB will create a system that is second to none for training current and future workers and for helping individuals and communities adapt to economic change.

Currently, people who need training or who must adjust to our changing economy have to face what can only be described as a confusing and fragmented array of programs and services provided by various levels of government, post-secondary institutions, school boards, vocational schools, community organizations and others. With OTAB, the people of Ontario will have easier access to a coordinated training and adjustment system better able to meet the needs of the economy, employers and individuals.

The key to the success of the new workforce development system under OTAB is the power and responsibility that will be shared by the government with those who know best what is needed. We call these people our labour market partners. They are representatives of business, of labour, of educators and trainers, of those people traditionally at a disadvantage in getting fair access to training and adjustment services and programs, namely, women, racial minorities, people with disabilities and members of the francophone community.

Comme je vous le disais, ce sont ces personnes que nous appelons les «partenaires du marché du travail». Il s'agit des personnes représentant le patronat, les travailleuses et travailleurs, les éducatrices et les éducateurs, les formatrices et formateurs et les personnes qui ont été traditionnellement désavantagées en ne bénéficiant pas d'un accès équitable aux programmes et aux services de formation et d'adaptation, soit les femmes, les membres des minorités raciales, les personnes handicapées et les francophones.

An individual representing aboriginal people may also be appointed to the OTAB board at the request of, and in consultation with, representatives of recognized aboriginal organizations. In addition, OTAB will have non-voting representation from our government, from the federal government and from the municipal level of government.

Representatives of our labour market partners are here in the gallery this afternoon. These persons have worked very hard with us as participants in the OTAB initiative. I salute them and thank them very much for the very hard work they have provided in developing this program. Thank you very much. I appreciate that greatly.

La création du Conseil ontarien de formation et d'adaptation de la main d'oeuvre est un projet considérable et complexe. J'ai eu le privilège de guider cette importante initiative jusqu'à maintenant, mais je n'ai pas accompli ce travail seul. Un grand nombre de personnes et d'organismes, ainsi que d'autres députés de l'Assemblée législative, ont contribué à l'élaboration des idées et des principes qui soutiennent le projet de loi sur le COFAM.

L'idée de regrouper au sein d'un seul organisme dynamique les activités de mise en valeur de la main-d'oeuvre, organisme dirigé par les personnes qui ont besoin de ces services et qui les utilisent, est apparue depuis plus d'une décennie dans plusieurs autres provinces canadiennes et dans d'autres pays. Toutefois, le COFAM comporte des caractéristiques uniques adaptées aux besoins de l'Ontario, tout en intégrant les meilleurs éléments d'autres régimes de formation qui connaissent du succès.

OTAB will need to respond to many challenges and demands over the years to come. These demands and needs will of course change from time to time. OTAB will have to be innovative, flexible, adaptable, if it is to meet the needs of different sectors in our economy.

Some of OTAB's objectives are already quite clear. It will seek to ensure that labour force development programs address the barriers that currently prevent some people from participating in the labour force. With its mandate, OTAB will promote access and equity, Ontario's linguistic duality, and will respond to the needs of Ontario's diverse population and accommodate the special needs of people with disabilities.

OTAB—and this is most important—is part of a long-term industrial policy framework for Ontario designed to encourage a higher-skill, higher-wage economy. OTAB's goal of a high-quality workforce is in the best interests of us all to increase competitiveness, to attract investment and to improve the lives of current as well as future workers.

It will of course also provide leadership to demonstrate to employers and workers that investment in skills is not just the government's job. While government has an important role to play in labour force development, employers must also invest more in training and individuals must assume greater responsibility for their own training decisions. To this end, OTAB will work to foster an understanding that acquiring new skills and upgrading existing ones is a lifelong process of continuous learning.

Together, employers and workers must increase their level of cooperation through partnerships within firms, between firms and across entire sectors. It is exciting to see that this kind of work environment is emerging at many locations around the province even at this very moment. OTAB will play a major role in assisting workers and management to develop partnerships in the area of workforce training and adjustment.

This major reform of Ontario's labour force development system will ensure not only that there will be a healthy economy, and therefore jobs for Ontario workers, but meaningful, relevant jobs that give people stability, dignity, equal opportunities and a promising future.

I spoke earlier of the absolutely essential role that our labour market partners play in this process. In fact, they

have already contributed extensively to the development of this training board. This is a unique example of getting those people for whom policies are intended directly involved in making policy. All of the labour market partners have taken a very profound role in refining OTAB's mandate and in developing the bill that I will be introducing later today. As a result, I know that we have a foundation for an effective partnership.

L'inclusion de la diversité de perspectives des partenaires du marché du travail sera une partie intégrante du processus de création du COFAM et de ses activités courantes. Avec leur aide, nous pourrions éliminer les obstacles qui empêchent les gens de participer à la formation. Ces obstacles constituent un gaspillage coûteux du potentiel économique de notre population et une entrave inacceptable aux efforts des gens visant à améliorer leur vie.

Ce programme coordonné comportera aussi d'autres avantages. Il donnera à l'Ontario les outils dont il a besoin pour recueillir et analyser des données sur le marché du travail qui serviront à faire des prévisions, à préparer les budgets et à effectuer la planification stratégique et l'évaluation.

With an agency in place that can survey and plan for all of Ontario's publicly funded training and adjustment needs, we will be able to identify the overlaps and gaps in what is now offered to make sure our resources are used as effectively and as efficiently as we possibly can.

To ensure that OTAB is aware of conditions across the province, it will be linked to a network of local boards run by the labour market partners at the local level. These local boards will be a joint federal and provincial initiative to coordinate access to both governments' programs and services. One of OTAB's first priorities will be to work with the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, Employment and Immigration Canada and this government on a local board implementation guide.

OTAB will be a dynamic leadership body which, through consensus and innovation, will respond to Ontario's changing economic and social needs for years to come.

OTAB will help drive economic renewal in Ontario by ensuring that we have a flexibly equipped workforce, well trained, flexible, adaptable, ready to do the job, a workforce that will help attract investment to Ontario in today's highly competitive international economy. When we take steps to improve the skills of our workforce, we are making an investment of our own, an investment in our greatest resource, namely, our people.

I ask members to give this act close attention. It represents an important opportunity to create a new agency that has so much to offer to all the people of Ontario: to employers, to workers, to the workers of tomorrow. All of us want to work hard at economic renewal and build a strong and prosperous future for Ontario. OTAB is a vital tool to be used in that task.

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): It's sad, and I must say I feel sorry for the minister today, that on a day when all of us in Ontario should be turning our heads and focusing on the issues of skills development and the government's initiative, how to try to get Ontario retrained and

reskilled, unfortunately we inevitably find ourselves turning our heads to other matters with this government. That is really sad. This shows this government's inability to do its job, period, but I'm sure we'll be talking about that later on.

1400

It's been two years and two months in this government's mandate, and only today are we now seeing what this government says is one of the cornerstones of its legislation to try to redevelop the economy of Ontario. We certainly were expecting this legislation, according to the minister and this government, at the beginning of this session, but we find it now. OTAB is supposed to be the cornerstone of this government's strategy for economic renewal, yet we have experienced one delay after another. If training is such a priority, why then has it taken two years for this government to move on OTAB? Since this government took power, we have seen nothing but job losses.

As the minister and the government know, we now have 609,000 people without work in this province. To me, this translates into two things: Ontarians are crying out for work and training and this NDP government has delayed in both departments. Two years later, all this government has to offer is legislation. The people of Ontario need action today. They need to know where to go for access: how to access their training and how to access funding for their training.

The unemployment rate in Ontario is currently 11.3%. Most of those people want to go back to work and most of those people know they need new skills in training. Today's announcement is not going to help them for months to come.

There are a lot of questions that we over here have in regard to this legislation. I think the first one is the fundamental principle of this particular agency that the minister wants to establish, and that is, should a primary function such as skills training be privatized? Should the education and skills training not still be a creature of government? I await our first and second reading of these bills and committee work to debate that principle, because I think it's important.

The makeup of this is obviously very important also. I still have a grave concern about all those people who, for whatever circumstance, find themselves not represented by a union, how they are going to have some input into skills training. They also have to be represented.

We also have concerns about the budget, how this is going to be funded and where all the money is going to come from. When are the local training and adjustment boards going to be set up, and how is that transition going to happen? We have the federally established community industrial training committees right now and we shouldn't waste that tremendous effort of cooperation that's been established over the last few years. We need those people.

We'll have more time later to debate. I look forward to that debate on this legislation.

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): This statement, coming today after so long, is simply a blatant

attempt to put out something positive to cover the series of disasters that this government is facing. I would suggest to the minister that his statement on OTAB now seems to be the height of irrelevance, because you can't train people for jobs that don't exist.

Furthermore, I have to say that I am not surprised that we had no statement on the success of the Premier's trip to Asia in bringing new investment and new jobs to the province. In fact, the only statement we've seen on that subject was the last spin document produced by the departed spin doctor for the New Democrats. I remind you that this particular press release was an announcement of a \$10-million investment which the company the next day said was actually announced two years ago. This is the reality of what has happened since the Premier has been away.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mrs McLeod: Plants in London, Waterloo, Windsor, Napanee and St Thomas have closed or are in the process of shutting their doors for good. As a result, another 1,400 people are set to join the unemployment rolls. We've seen that the Premier's much-touted Jobs Ontario Training program has turned out to be a failure. Less than 700 people have enrolled in the first six months of this \$1-billion program.

We have a new government report that says that under the New Democrats workers stay unemployed longer and that when they are rehired, they earn less than they did before.

Success usually means achieving your goals. No wonder we have no statement of the success of the Premier's trip to Asia.

The Speaker: Responses, third party.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Unfortunately, as a party that was very much interested in looking at the public participation process with regard to OTAB, I have to stand here today and say that whereas this announcement should have been met with some degree of satisfaction and some degree of confidence in the government, it does just the opposite, for two reasons.

First of all, this is exactly what the NDP government wanted. During the deliberations we advised the government that 5- and 10-minute presentations were not sufficient. And then we did say, "Listen carefully to what the public of Ontario are saying in deliberations in a 23-city tour across this province," and I have to say they didn't.

The makeup of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, as it went out for public consultation, came back exactly the same way, instead of listening to the public, which said two things: first of all, make sure that you welcome the input of the private sector; make sure that you welcome the majority of Ontario workers—those are the non-unionized workers; make sure that you welcome the education community and, second, make certain that you ask them to be part of the training process for Ontario, which is so much needed.

They didn't; the board has stayed exactly the same way. Non-unionized labour does not have one single seat of the eight labour seats, in spite of the request on behalf

of all our constituencies. Even if it was a token appreciation, somebody could have stood up and said, "Thank you for listening," but there wasn't one token seat given to non-unionized labour. It was extremely important, given the tenure of this government and given the experience of the last two years, to have people bend over backwards to all of the citizens of the province of Ontario. I can say that it is with cynicism that this will be received today on behalf of the public, and I can say that because I did advise the minister over and over again.

Secondly, I will say that the Ontario labour force right now is going to be "heavily involved" in training, and I hope that's true. That's the positive part. But there is one word missing, and that's "accountability." For every dollar that we spend on this board, our expectation will be that the majority of that dollar will not be spent on the board itself or the administration of the board itself, but on training programs that produce workers who have been trained to meet the needs of the citizens of Ontario.

Thirdly, I have to say that there are a number of questions associated with the implementation. Will this new board become a bureaucratic colossus? If the government imposed a payroll tax for training in the future, in the next two or three years it could become—and I'm warning the government again—another Workers' Compensation Board. The WCB has a \$10.3-billion unfunded liability and satisfies no one.

Will private trainers be allowed to deliver programming in the future? I hope so, and certainly the minister made that point during the press conference today. I'm only saying it now because I want to reassure them, because they certainly were not reassured during the process at all.

Will business and labour be able to work together, given the fact that these hearings did not respond to the non-unionized workers? Will they be able to work together? The Ontario workplace health and safety training is in gridlock. The accountability is extremely important. There is a need to streamline, as the minister said today in his statement, and improve existing training programs.

We are now looking at some \$400 million to \$500 million that will be the responsibility of this board. It's not new money—as we warned, it's not new money—but in fact it may be down the road. I have to say that for this government to say that this is the same as the federal board, which this parallels, in that they have the same message and the same structure—it simply is a very different board. The federal board, as you know, Mr Minister, is one that advises the government through two standing committees. This board is totally responsible for administering all of this money and deciding on the programs.

In closing, I'm told today that we will wait another 18 months for this board to be up and running. That was the response on behalf of the administration representing the ministry. That's 18 months more, and yet we face now this legislation being tabled today, later this afternoon, with just three weeks left in our agenda. It's unacceptable.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to welcome to our midst this afternoon, seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr Fred Gingell, the MLA from the province of British Columbia. Welcome.

1410

ESTIMATES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Standing order 62(a) provides that "the standing committee on estimates shall present one report with respect of all the estimates and supplementary estimates considered pursuant to standing orders 59 and 61 no later than the third Thursday in November of each calendar year."

The House not having received the report from the standing committee on estimates on Thursday, November 19, 1992, respecting the estimates of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation as required by the standing orders of this House, pursuant to standing order 62(b), the estimates before the committee of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation are deemed to be passed by the committee and are deemed to be reported to and received by the House.

It is time for oral questions.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Mr Speaker, point of order.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Point of order, the leader of the third party.

Mr Harris: I'll be very brief and, I believe, to the point. We've just had the Premier returning from a 16-day trip to Asia. We had ministers' statements in the House today. We had no report on that. The only indications we have are some new frequent flyer points and two \$10 baseball caps of trade. I wonder if we could have unanimous consent to allow the Premier to report on his trip.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, if I could just respond, since it's effectively a question, because the minister's statement had been scheduled for some time for this day, I've agreed to make my statement tomorrow. I'll be glad to make a full statement to the House tomorrow.

ORAL QUESTIONS

JOHN PIPER

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, as I'm sure you would have anticipated, our questions today are all for the Premier.

Premier, John Piper, your personal friend and your top adviser, has now resigned in disgrace over his dirty tricks campaign to smear a member of the public. Mr Piper today says he believes he has done no wrong. I ask you, do you believe that your friend and adviser has done no wrong?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm delighted to answer the question. I stand entirely by the comments that I made on Friday. I made it very clear on Friday, as soon as I heard of Mr Piper's conduct, that I regarded it as frankly appalling. It

doesn't conform in any way or in any respect to what I expect of people who work on behalf of the government of Ontario. I made that absolutely clear and I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition knows that full well.

Mrs McLeod: Given that statement, we have to ask some further questions about how this incident could have occurred at all. I remind you, Premier, that you brought your friend John Piper into your office. You made him your top official, you made him your closest adviser. You gave him one particular job, and the job you gave John Piper was to make your government look good.

I ask you, Premier, what kind of standards did you set for the operation that Mr Piper would be carrying out on your behalf? Did you set any standards at all? Have you become so desperate that you were prepared to give John Piper free rein to do whatever he needed to do to clean up the messes of your government?

Hon Mr Rae: Talk about advisers; I regret that the Leader of the Opposition is taking advice from those who would prompt her to ask those kinds of questions, which are really quite out of character for her. She knows full well, I would hope, the kinds of feelings that are shared by everyone in this House with respect to what took place, what Mr Piper did. She knows that full well. I've expressed that publicly. I think any commonsense reaction would be shared.

To imply, as her question does, that I would in some sense have condoned what he did flies directly in the face of what took place. Mr Piper resigned as soon as anyone became aware of what he had done and I expressed myself very clearly as soon as I heard of it and as soon as I had an opportunity to express myself. So don't let the honourable Leader of the Opposition go around implying in any kind of way, underhanded or any other way, that there's any other reaction from this Premier than to say that I disapprove entirely of what Mr Piper did. Don't let her mistake in any way, shape or form my views in that regard.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, the question is, how could such an action even have been contemplated? Don't talk to me about something underhanded; if you want to talk to me about fairness, we might want to talk about what's fair to Judi Harris.

We are dealing with a question which we believe is a very serious question of judgement, of standards and indeed of ethics. Our concern is with your responsibility for the operation of your office and the operation of your government. The question is therefore a question of your standards, your judgement and your ethics.

Now the question is: How do we get to the bottom of all this? I ask you whether you will commit today to an immediate, full inquiry, an all-party inquiry in this House that would look into the question of how this incident could possibly have taken place and what it says about the operation of your office and your government.

Hon Mr Rae: What it says about my views is that as soon as I became aware, as soon as anyone else became aware, of what Mr Piper had done, he resigned. I stated very clearly my views on the subject. I quite agree with her; it is a matter of judgement, and yes, it is a matter of

ethics. I've stated my views very clearly on that, and the member opposite knows that full well.

With respect to the matter of an inquiry, I ask her to cast her mind back to the experience of the administration of which she was a member, in which Mr Ashworth resigned, the executive assistant to the Premier of the day, and in which the Houlden inquiry was then set up. The Houlden inquiry was subsequently shut down right away because it coincided with the criminal investigation.

As the Leader of the Opposition knows full well, the OPP are currently conducting an investigation into what took place. There is no way in which any other inquiries can take place until that has been concluded.

Mrs McLeod: What we're dealing with today is one incident after another for which you are solely responsible. I suggest to you that this is not the first time we've seen this kind of abuse of power and responsibility from your government. Cast your mind back to just a year ago, when the Minister of Northern Development was advised to take a lie detector test to prove that she lied when she smeared a member of the public. What is it about your leadership that makes your ministers and your staff feel that these kind of tactics are appropriate?

Hon Mr Rae: I'll let my leadership be judged just as her former leader's leadership was judged, just as Bill Davis's leadership was judged and that of John Robarts and others. It happens in public life that sometimes people make mistakes; they make errors of judgement, and things happen like that. It does take place. I don't condone it; I don't approve it. But to suggest and to create this kind of sense out there which the Leader of the Opposition together with her friends has been trying to do, to say that this is somehow unique to this government is quite false. In fact, it's something that happens in the life of every government that has ever been formed in this province and every government that has ever been formed in Canada.

People make mistakes. Mistakes have to be dealt with; standards have to be set. The record will show clearly where this Premier stands and where this government stands. With due respect to the honourable member, it compares quite favourably to where her leader stood when she sat on his cabinet and in previous governments as well, and that's the truth.

Mrs McLeod: Indeed, Premier, the record will stand, and there is no record and no precedent that will show this degree of breach of trust and abuse of power. What we see from your government, what we see under your leadership is a government that has been prepared time and time again to go to any length to cover up its mistakes. I suggest that your government is consistent in one respect, and that is in the respect that anybody who disagrees with it is going to be silenced one way or another.

Again I come back to the fact that it is a question of standards, of judgement, of confidence and of ethics. How can anyone, after the record that has been established by you and your government, trust what your government does? How would any person want to sit down and try to do honest dealings with your government?

Hon Mr Rae: People do honest dealings with our government every day. That's a reality. I ask the honourable Leader of the Opposition to try to get a grip on what has taken place. Someone working in the Premier's office made a serious error of judgement and did something which I do not for a moment or for an instant condone and which is not condoned or approved by anyone on this side of the House. She then says there's been some kind of a coverup. What nonsense. As soon as the information is revealed to anybody, it then is referred immediately to the OPP. That's the Liberal Party's definition of a coverup now.

The Liberal leader—I can understand today, and I knew full well—says all the questions today are going to be for the Premier. I can only say, "What a surprise." But I want to tell the honourable member and say to the honourable leader that I'm ready to answer questions which are asked simply and in a straightforward way. But I can also tell the Leader of the Opposition that this kind of insinuation and innuendo that somehow something has been done which I approve of or condone is really just out to lunch. It is not something where I'm going to just stand up here and say, "Fine, all well and good. You can make these insinuations," because they just can't be allowed to stand on their own.

1420

Mrs McLeod: Premier, I remind you of the fact that the individual who has resigned was your closest adviser, your personal friend, the person whom you directed to make your government look good.

Premier, exactly what we are trying to do is to come to grips with it, to get to the bottom of what happened. You have successfully avoided responding to our call for an inquiry so that we could begin to ask the questions of what exactly has happened in this situation and what it says about the way in which you run your office and the way in which you run your government.

I would suggest to you that this question has to be dealt with because people across this province are desperate. They are desperate in the kinds of concerns that they're facing. The only thing that your government is desperate about is trying to cover up the messes that you've made.

Premier, I would suggest to you to answer the question of how the desperate people, the jobless people of this province, can expect anything from a government that is spending all of its time and energy and effort in just trying to cover up with smear campaigns and damage control and pure crisis management.

Hon Mr Rae: I'd just say to the honourable member again, as I answered before, that to even suggest the use of the word "coverup," which of course one has to expect will be thrown out and grasped by whoever wants to grasp the word in the air, is ludicrous. Let's get real here. As soon as any information was made available, it was made public and was referred immediately to the OPP, exactly what one would expect of any Premier, of anybody faced with this situation, exactly what I would expect of anyone else in public life. That's what anyone would do in this circumstance.

Second, to suggest that we're somehow preoccupied—let me tell the honourable member, I'm happy to answer questions on the economy, I'm happy to answer questions on jobs, I'm happy to answer questions on this. The people who are preoccupied with what is in the media from day to day are members of the opposition. They're eating out on it. They're dining on it. They're having fun with it. But the people of Ontario want to get on with other business, and that's exactly what we're prepared to do, what we're prepared to discuss, what we're happy to do.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. There are many questions that need to be answered today, but I want to begin with what I believe to be far and away the most important and certainly the most disturbing to me. A senior member of your office deliberately attempted to smear the reputation of an alleged victim of the Grandview incidents. He has resigned with an apology to you, Premier—he apologized that he has perhaps hurt you—but without any hint of remorse for what he attempted to do to Judi Harris.

Premier, why was Mr Piper allowed to resign without apologizing, not to you, but to Miss Harris?

Hon Mr Rae: Mr Piper offered his resignation as soon as the information became public in the Toronto Sun newspaper.

I can only tell the honourable member that I profoundly regret what has happened. I am very sorry for what has taken place to Miss Harris, and I think any right- and sensible-minded person would be. I certainly want to convey those thoughts to you and to members of the House.

Mr Harris: What very much disturbs me is that your highly paid spin doctor, the one you brought in, resigned because he said he embarrassed you. Premier, that statement that he resigned because he embarrassed you—and nothing from you on Friday, which I understood; perhaps we'd have to wait till Saturday to get the time change taken care of; nothing on Sunday, nothing today, no statement from you in the House—that speaks volumes about the total disregard that Mr Piper has for the seriousness of what he's done.

He deliberately attempted to smear the reputation of an alleged victim. Why? For political gain for your government. This government, you will know, Premier, came into office promising to be clean, to be open, to be upfront and promising as well to defend women who have been victims. That was your promise, and Mr Piper has done just exactly the opposite in his actions to try to smear Miss Harris.

Premier, given that he was hired by you personally, that he had your personal authority to act on your and your government's behalf and that he refused to apologize, why would you, Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, this morning, today, not have come into this House and apologized to Miss Harris?

Hon Mr Rae: With due respect, I think I made my views very clear on Friday. I think as soon as I heard of the event in the Vancouver airport I made my views entirely clear, as I've done in the House today. I think what has taken place is not something that anyone on this side of the

House would either condone or accept, it's not something I condone or accept and I'm very sorry for what has taken place with respect to Miss Harris. I've made that very clear and I'd make it clear any time.

I don't think what took place is right. To suggest somehow that we are in any way, shape or form condoning or accepting what has taken place really doesn't reflect my views and doesn't reflect how I feel. I've made that very clear, I will continue to make it very clear and that's precisely what took place on Friday.

Mr Harris: I appreciate that after my asking the question, the Premier is making that position clear. What very much disturbs me, though, is that this wasn't the first thing on Mr Piper's mind, it wasn't the first thing on anybody's mind in your office. The first thing was damage control: "Get rid of the cancer. Have him resign." There wasn't any indication of any remorse from anyone in your office or from any single one of your cabinet members or any single one of your caucus members, or from you until I just asked you in this House today.

We look at the federal rape shield law, supported by us all, brought in to protect victims of rape. The reason? There are people who think it's okay to try and smear a woman by raising her past or raising information irrelevant to the case at hand, particularly when she has become a victim, and we are dealing now with an alleged victim. We don't know; none of us know the details of the case, nor do people know during a rape trial. You know why that legislation was brought in.

So there may have been criminal wrongdoings. This net may, if the investigation is full, bring in others and there may be criminal charges. But to me, Premier, it speaks volumes, the silence from Mr Piper, from your cabinet and from you until it was asked today.

I would ask you if you will investigate why the first reaction of everyone was not for the alleged victim in this case; why the attitude of the whole office was, "Get rid of the cancer; have him apologize to Bob Rae, because it may be damaging to him, his friend, the NDP or the government," without a single thought, until just now when I asked you, for Judi Harris. Will you investigate that as well?

Hon Mr Rae: It was a very long question. I can only say the member's characterization of some of the issues I can certainly accept in terms of what he has said about why the issues are important, why it's important to protect people's reputations and about why it's important not to do anything to the contrary.

I can only say to the honourable member that his characterization of my response, his characterization of the response of this government, of members of the cabinet on Friday and of members of my government throughout the weekend and today, that's the characterization which I just don't accept and don't regard as an accurate reflection of how I feel or what I've stated.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question.

[Applause]

Mr Harris: I assume you're applauding me for asking the questions so the Premier could finally say the right thing. Thank you.

1430

I want now to get at a few other facts, Premier. We've had example after example after example of your government trying to, I would suggest, harass those who want to come forward with information that may be embarrassing to the government.

Ernst and Young with a labour study: The Minister of Labour smeared them. Civil servants who tried to bring information to light: The first thing you do, this great party—whistle-blowing legislation, openness, civil servants should be free, it should be public information—is call in the OPP to see if you can get some charges.

But perhaps the case that bothers me the most because it strikes right to you, Premier, your standards and your willingness or ability to enforce them, has to do with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the reaction to her political opponents by slandering a doctor and smearing his reputation. Mr Piper, sir, was in your office. He was in charge of spin-doctoring that out as best he could. The message he was in charge of in that case was, "It's okay to lie and slander an opponent of the government."

Now this same senior adviser—that was his job; that's what he was brought in to do—given what happened in the Shelley Martel affair, thought it was okay to discredit a woman who had made allegations against a member of your cabinet. There's a pattern here. There's a modus operandi, if you like.

I ask you, Premier, do you not now understand that very seriousness of not dealing with the Martel affair as it should have been dealt with, the seriousness of allowing that kind of conduct to go without any action from you, to be condoned by you? Do you not now understand that by not acting you in fact are responsible for the behaviour of Mr Piper?

Hon Mr Rae: I suppose the simple answer is no, but I really do think the member has to at least recognize that what Mr Piper did was seen, I think by everybody, as something which should not under any circumstances be done. It's something which, as I've said, in no way, shape or form corresponds with what I think in any way makes sense or is fair or is acceptable from somebody working in the Premier's office.

I suggest that we not draw all the comparisons, because we can make comparisons going back to time immemorial, to previous governments, to things that were done and not done from time to time. I think the point is that action has been taken very clearly with respect to Mr Piper. I don't approve of or condone it. To suggest that I'm somehow responsible for it I think is the exact opposite of the truth.

Mr Harris: Except that in this case the one who was to be smeared was an alleged victim of sexual assault or of sexual impropriety; in the Shelley Martel affair the one being smeared was a doctor. In the one case the one being smeared was politically incorrect; in the other case perhaps politically correct.

Mr Premier, we have example after example after example where if the cause is okay, you can break the law, you can lie, you can smear, you can do whatever it takes to defend government policy, to defend Bob Rae, to defend the government, to defend the NDP. But if the cause is not, then you're prepared to act.

I would ask you, Premier, to tell me the difference, aside from what the case was, between Miss Martel lying and slandering to discredit a doctor criticizing this government and Mr Piper attempting to get information in the public domain to smear Miss Harris. Can you tell me what the difference is in those two actions, one by a cabinet minister that you condoned and approved of and said was okay, and now this action by Mr Piper? What was the difference?

Hon Mr Rae: Again, I want to say very directly to the member—I'm not going to get drawn into these comparisons, but I want to say very directly to the member that the kinds of allegations that he's made with respect to conduct which is seen by me or by this government as acceptable are really quite out of keeping with the case or with what is taking place in the province.

We've made very clear what happens, just as in former governments things took place, just as in former governments premiers exercised their judgement—not always agreed upon by others, not always accepted by all members of the House, but nevertheless, judgement was exercised.

I think very clearly, with respect to this instance of Mr Piper, he himself offered his resignation right away, realizing, as he must have done, that what had taken place was in no way, shape or form acceptable to this Premier and to this government. Let there be no doubt or illusion about that. That is very, very clear with regard to what we've done.

Mr Harris: Other than causing some embarrassment for his close friend Bob Rae, Mr Piper said yesterday that he didn't do anything wrong; he doesn't see anything wrong with what he did. I'm suggesting to you that perhaps that's because he did exactly what others have done, including Miss Martel, that he was led to believe it was okay if the cause was right.

Mr Premier, do you now have an investigation under way as to what all Mr Piper was doing for the last 15 months in the way of spin doctoring, in the way of putting information out, in the way of perhaps smearing others? Do we have that kind of investigation under way from what Mr Piper thought was okay, which clearly you today say is not okay? Is that under way?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say to the honourable member that we, I think, have acted very clearly and in a very direct fashion with respect to what took place. I think the experience has been a very, very difficult one for everyone concerned, and I don't think there's any masking or getting around that. We have dealt with it. We are dealing with it. I will say directly to the honourable member that there are investigations taking place that are being conducted by others, by the OPP.

As for me, I can honestly say to the member that I am doing everything I can to look to the future, to look to jobs,

to look to the agenda of this government and to not allow ourselves to get preoccupied or blown off course by the mistakes that people make. We deal with those mistakes clearly; we deal with those mistakes directly. But we also have an agenda, we also have a job to do, and that's precisely what this government is doing.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is to the Premier. Mr Premier, do you honestly believe that the people of Ontario are going to want to engage you and your government on issues like the economy and job creation when they have very real and repeated evidence that they may suffer the same fate that Judi Harris and Dr Donahue faced when they stood up and took positions at variance with the Rae government? When they did, they were smeared in the most vicious and public way imaginable.

Surely, Mr Premier, you understand how, given what's happened in the Piper affair and in the Martel affair, men and women in this province are going to be very reluctant to engage you and your government on critical questions like the economy, when they have seen what happens to people like Judi Harris and Dr Donahue, men and women, good citizens, who have stood up and engaged you and your government in a debate, only to be smeared and slandered in the public domain.

How do you expect people to engage you and your government on economic issues when there has been in recent days more evidence that at the highest levels in your government close advisers and long-time personal friends are quite prepared to use high office to abuse the public trust and to abuse and to slander anyone who might get in your way?

Hon Mr Rae: I don't know how I could be clearer or more categorical with respect to Mr Piper's conduct, and I think the honourable member for Renfrew North, in his heart of hearts, knows that.

I think he also knows full well that for the vast majority of people in this province who look to the economy and who look to how governments respond to difficult situations, who look to how individuals respond to difficult situations—all I can tell the honourable member is that my experience tells me that the people of this province want to deal directly with this government.

They will be dealt with, as they have been dealt with in the past, fairly and openly. They express their disagreements with us clearly and openly. That's the way it is. We will continue to operate on that basis, without fear and without favour, and if anybody conducts himself in a different way, very clear indications are given by me as to how I feel about that and what needs to be done.

Mr Conway: We must remember that this is a Premier who doesn't yet understand that there's something wrong when his own constituency assistant corresponds with the Ontario Municipal Board to advance a hearing in his own constituency.

It's quite clear that these people, including the Premier himself, don't get it. They don't get the import of their own conflict-of-interest rules. They don't get the import of

the Premier's high-minded rhetoric of November 19, 1990, when he called us all to his commitment that his government's ethics would be the highest and best ever.

Let me say this to the Premier: I think I know the political history of this province reasonably well. While it is true, as the Premier suggests, that other governments have had difficulties, I submit to this House and to this Premier that I know of no other incident in the political history of this province where as high an official in the Premier's office and someone so close to the leader of the government as Mr Piper was to Mr Bob Rae, someone as close to the nerve centre of the government itself, was willing, almost eager, to go out and take the past criminal record of an Ontario citizen and use that past criminal record to smear a defenceless woman in the court of public opinion. There is no precedent for that kind of breach of trust and abuse of power.

The Speaker: Could the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Conway: Is the Premier satisfied that his good friend John Piper acted alone in this outrageous misconduct? Is he further satisfied that the cancerous behaviour that Mr Piper's attitude shows in this Harris affair has been completely rooted out of his office, that is, the Premier's office? Will the Premier and the leader of this government give this assembly and the people of Ontario an undertaking this day that he will accede to an all-party legislative inquiry into the conduct of his office in these matters? Will he give us that assurance this day?

Hon Mr Rae: I don't know whether anybody's keeping a record, but I think that must be the longest question I've ever heard in the history of the Parliament of the Legislature of Ontario. As somebody who knows something about high-minded rhetoric, the member for Renfrew North is a whiz at high-minded rhetoric, low-minded rhetoric or any kind of rhetoric, and also a whiz at synthetic indignation.

He sat as a member of a cabinet that had its problems, that had its difficulties, where members of the cabinet sat for day after day in response to questions and either moved or didn't move, depending on the politics of the moment or whatever it was. I don't recall his getting up and saying, "I'm going to resign as a matter of principle because this conduct is unacceptable."

I'm going to say to the honourable member that I respect his views and that I knew full well I was going to get another dose of his synthetic indignation this afternoon. I fully anticipated and expected it, but I just want to remind the honourable member of a couple of very basic facts.

First of all, clear and categorical action was taken by this government and this Premier with respect to what took place on Friday. Second of all, I want to say that my answer to his second part of his question is precisely the same as the answer I gave to his honourable leader. Perhaps he wasn't listening.

The Speaker: New question, the leader of the third party.

Mr Harris: My question is to the Premier. To follow up on the seriousness of the issue, to follow up on my

concern that it was only an afterthought that we would apologize to the alleged victim, that "How do we handle the public relations for the government?" was the first order of the day, to follow up on a question by the member for Renfrew North on who else may have been involved in this, I would like to ask you this: Last evening, Mr Piper entered this building at 8:59 pm. He indicated he was visiting the office of Melody Morrison, your chief of staff. Ms Morrison signed into this building two minutes after Mr Piper. Can you confirm what a source has told my office today, that Mr Piper left the building at 9:39 pm with several boxes? I'd like to ask you, Premier, were you aware of this? Were you aware that Ms Morrison was involved in this? Do you know with certainty what was in the boxes that Mr Piper hauled out of here last night?

Hon Mr Rae: I know nothing of any of the allegations the member is making.

Mr Harris: We have a police investigation going on into this affair, yet Mr Piper was allowed to enter this building last night and was allowed to remove what may very well be valuable information to this process. We know that Ms Morrison, at least, came in two minutes after, and that Mr Piper gave, as the reason he wanted to be here, a meeting with Ms Morrison. Would you not agree with me that this is now totally out of hand, Premier? Will you agree this instant, immediately, to make sure that the OPP—and if they need help, they bring in whoever they need—are brought in this minute to lock the doors, to lock up all the information in all of your offices?

Would you also agree with me, in light of what happened last night, that Ms Morrison is not the one who should be receiving this report but in fact should now be part of the investigation as well?

Hon Mr Rae: The OPP have full carriage of whatever investigation they intend to carry out.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the Premier take his seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I can only say to the honourable member that it would be entirely inappropriate for me to do anything other than to say that the OPP have full carriage. The idea that the Premier would tell the OPP what to do or whom to talk to or whom to interview or whom not to interview, in my view would be totally inappropriate.

The Speaker: New question. The member for Cambridge.

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr Harris: The OPP would have to be told that they can't trust the chief of staff to—

The Speaker: Order, the leader of the third party.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Can you imagine that? You can tell them to run out and check every Liberal who gets a secret document, but they can't—

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, please come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Cambridge.

Mr Farnan: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The Cambridge Family Crisis Shelter has been struggling to—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order.

Interjection.

An hon member: Get a life.

Mr Stockwell: We've got a life. That's the difference.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, please come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for Cambridge.

Mr Farnan: The people of Cambridge would be extremely grateful if the opposition would allow this question to be asked.

1450

SHELTER FOR WOMEN

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): To the Minister of Community and Social Services: The Cambridge Family Crisis Shelter has been struggling to survive financially while providing a desperately needed service. Last year, they completed construction of a new facility using a capital grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The new facility was built to accommodate 16 beds, up from 11 beds, and the bigger building reflected the need in the community for more spaces in the shelter. There has been no increase in the operating grant to keep up with the increased size of the building and the needs of Cambridge residents. The shelter cannot continue to operate, as it is now doing, on a \$10,000 monthly deficit. I would ask the minister whether there are plans to fund the operation of the shelter in proportion to the scale on which they funded the building of this much-needed community resource.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): At the time that the permission was given for the enlarged size of the shelter, we did have available the capital grants and were trying to think strategically ahead in order to provide for growth in the service when the operating funding became available. So the operation knew, and this is true of several other shelters in the province, that we were only going to be able to promise to fund at the same level of beds for the short run, but that we were encouraging the building to accommodate more space when that time came forward.

The area office is working with the board to look at the particular funding arrangements that it has now and in fact has arranged a joint meeting of all the shelters in the area to talk about how some interagency collaboration might assist with these particular difficulties. But at the time that permission was given to build the 16 beds, the shelter was aware that we could offer operating funds only for the 11 beds for the short run.

Mr Farnan: As a supplementary question, Minister, I would like to ask about fairness of funding to different shelters for the women and children who are the victims of family violence.

I understand the restraint under which your ministry is forced to operate and that current funding arrangements were inherited by this government, but I must ask whether there can be a reasonable basis on which one 11-bed shelter serving a population of roughly 90,000 people—I refer to Simcoe shelter in Haldimand-Norfolk—can be funded at nearly double the rate of the 11-bed Cambridge Family Crisis Shelter, which also serves 90,000 people.

I do not want to suggest that one shelter should be benefiting at the expense of another, but surely similar communities deserve similar levels of service. It would appear to me, Minister, on the basis of the information that I have provided you, Cambridge is being shortchanged.

Hon Mrs Boyd: This is an issue that really is of great concern to people who run shelters. The major funding for women's emergency shelters comes through the general welfare assistance grants. They are built on per diem rates that are approved by the municipality, which of course is responsible for the administration of GWA.

The provincial maximum has been set at \$34.10 a day, but local municipalities currently have the discretion to fund hostel services at a lower per diem rate. That is where many of the discrepancies come in, and the discrepancies are great across the province.

Hostel funding is part of the discussion that is going on between the province and the municipalities around GWA funding, and this is an issue that we hope to see resolved as part of those disentanglement discussions.

There's also a difference in the services. There is a list of core services that we do fund from the province, but every shelter doesn't offer all the core services, so there's a difference in service level and therefore a difference in funding level.

The last issue of course is how much local fund-raising does go on in each area.

JOHN PIPER

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): We recognize that the OPP is investigating aspects of Mr Piper's resignation. That investigation will continue, as it must, as indeed other OPP investigations involving members of this government and this government's actions will continue and will report in due time. That is not the issue we are dealing with today.

The issue, Premier, is that an offer of confidential information, however obtained, was made, and it was refused. The story of that offer then broke in the newspapers, and your trusted adviser and friend resigned. We know that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, who also resigned while you were away, resigned after the story of the investigation became public.

Premier, the question before us is that we don't believe that you can continue to deal with issues only when they become public. You can't refuse to take responsibility for what is happening in your office on a day-to-day basis. You cannot wash your hands of the situation once the mess

you're involved in comes to public attention, and that's what you're trying to do here today, Premier. I ask you, if you continue to take that position, how can the people in this province possibly know what else is going on in your government?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I followed the question carefully. I'd say to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that I've responded, as others would, on the basis of advice offered to me by senior members of the public service from time to time with respect to some difficult issues, and I have responded as effectively as I could to difficult situations. The honourable member may disagree with the way I've handled things. She may feel that she has a better way. No doubt she will have an opportunity to express those thoughts at an appropriate time.

I just want to say to the honourable member that we have dealt, with respect to a situation that I found and, as I said, that I think any member would find to be unacceptable, in a way that's as clear and categorical as possible. I would hope that at some point the Leader of the Opposition would say: "That is now being investigated. We all have confidence in the integrity and the independence of the OPP, everyone in this House does, and therefore it is not possible to have all kinds of other fishing expeditions and inquiries." The courts have been very categorical, even recently on the Westray case, and therefore we have to deal with the situation as it has been dealt with. She can take whatever shots she wants to take, but I can tell the honourable member that's the way it is.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I want to talk, in supplementary, about what is going on, as we speak, in the Premier's office. When the Premier got off the plane from Vancouver on Friday night, he said in clear language that he hadn't talked to John Piper and he would have no conversations with John Piper. John Piper was persona non grata.

Now we find out that within hours of the Premier's declaration of non-involvement with his former spin doctor and very good friend, within hours of that statement from the Premier, his chief of staff, Ms Morrison, is meeting with John Piper in the Premier's office in this very building, and allegedly Mr Piper carts out boxes of presumably interesting information that may in fact bear on whatever inquiries we are to have in this case.

So my question to the Premier is this: Following upon your return on Friday night, did you give any specific instructions to Ms Morrison and all others in your office? What kind of policy are they are operating on in your office, particularly with respect to, first, discussions with Mr Piper, and second, the removal from this precinct of papers and things that might bear upon any police or legislative inquiry that we will have in this connection?

Hon Mr Rae: Since the allegation was made in the House by the leader of the third party, I've received the following information. It's a memo to me from my principal secretary, Melody Morrison, dated November 22, 1992:

"On the advice of the Deputy Minister of the Attorney General, George Thomson, at 9:02 this evening I supervised John Piper while he packed his personal effects from his office on the third floor. His assistant, Joanne O'Regan, was there to help.

"I examined all the material he took with him and was entirely satisfied that only his personal effects and no government documents were removed.

"Mr Piper has not been in his office since 8:30 am on Friday November 20, 1992. He returned his key to room 371 to me and he left the building before 10 pm. The locks will be changed tomorrow," which means today.

1500

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): First, Premier, do you have any information of Mr Piper being in his office on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or at any time other than the time that I brought to this House's attention today?

Second, were the OPP or anyone who is in charge of this investigation there to make certain that all documents, pieces of paper, phone slips, anybody else who might have been involved in this attempt to smear Miss Harris—was there anybody who is in charge of the investigation, both for Mr Piper and for Miss Morrison, and for every person in your office and all of the staff, there to make sure that nothing that was being removed was relevant to this investigation?

Hon Mr Rae: I can only tell the honourable member what I have just told the House, and that is that what Miss Morrison did was on the advice of the Deputy Attorney General.

Mr Harris: Mr Premier, I go back, then, to the question I asked earlier. Will you this instant, since 10 minutes ago you would not, advise the OPP that nobody in your office can be trusted, including you, and that "You better change the locks today, you better secure every document today if you want to make sure that the documentation you're looking for may still be there"? Will you do that this instant?

Hon Mr Rae: My short answer to the member is—

Mr Harris: That's the problem.

Hon Mr Rae: No, I think that we see part of the problem. Part of the problem is that the rhetoric in this place gets so overblown and out of proportion to what is taking place. Allegations get made, statements get made with respect to my conduct or anyone else's conduct. What is done is done and has been done according to the advice that we received. Every step has been taken to ensure that proper measures were followed, and that's precisely the attitude and the direction that I've given to my staff.

HYDRO PROJECT

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): My question today is for the Minister of Energy. There's been a great deal of concern in my riding over the Sudbury-to-Toronto-area transmission reinforcement corridor proposed by Ontario Hydro. This corridor passes through the riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay. To allay some of these concerns, could you please inform me and my constituents if, in light of the recent deferrals of Hydro projects, this corridor

is still going ahead on schedule. If so, what stage is this project at and what stages does this project have to go through before it is approved?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): I thank the member for the question. The member made reference in his question to the announcement last month by the Ontario Hydro board of the deferral of a number of capital projects. Part of that announcement was an announcement that Hydro had entered into discussions with Manitoba Hydro about also deferring the purchase of power from Manitoba by five years. If those negotiations are successful, it's my understanding that the north-south portion of the Toronto-to-Sudbury reinforcement project would be deferred by a similar five years, from 2002 to 2007, but it's contingent on the outcome of that negotiation. In any event, the environmental assessment studies on the corridor will proceed regardless of deferrals of the construction.

In response to the last part of the member's question, whatever route Hydro finally chooses as its preferred route will be subject to a full environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr Waters: I wish to thank the minister for his information. In supplementary, Ontario Hydro has had a number of information sessions, which my constituency staff have been attending, regarding the proposed hydro corridor in my riding. I also know that Ontario Hydro has even offered to meet with groups in my riding to discuss the corridor. My question to the minister is, how can concerned citizens or groups in my riding get more information or express their opinion over the hydro corridor now that this round of information sessions is over?

Hon Mr Charlton: Again, it's an important question that the member asks. I guess I should start out by emphasizing that first of all there isn't a corridor. A number of corridors are being explored. There are a number of options that Hydro is exploring in the process of internally trying to decide which is its preferred route from Sudbury to Toronto.

There will be another series of information sessions in the summer of 1993, similar to the first round of sessions that were held this summer. But people shouldn't necessarily wait for those information sessions. They can certainly be in touch with Hydro, both about making their views known to Hydro now and in terms of receiving more information about the alternative routes that are being considered. As I said in response to the first question, at the end of the day, whatever routes Hydro should choose as its preferred routes will be subject to a full environmental assessment. There's that hearing process that the member's constituents could also become involved in.

JOHN PIPER

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): My question is to the Premier. Last week, in what I thought was the most inappropriate and cavalier response from your Attorney General, he, in attempting to justify the suppression of the Grandview report, suggested that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to achieve cheap headlines at the expense of a victim of Grandview. I find it incredibly ironic that, at

the very same time, your most trusted communications adviser was out there trying to get cheap headlines at the expense of Judi Harris by smearing her.

I ask the Premier, in light of these events, what would he say to Judi Harris that could give her any confidence that his government will ensure that the people of this province will not be smeared, as has been the record by his government, and that they will understand that they will receive appropriate treatment from the Attorney General, the justice system and, most especially, the Premier's office?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, I think the action that we've taken and what has taken place is a clear indication of how I think anyone would feel—certainly how I feel—about what has taken place. I think the question of the conduct of the Grandview investigation is something the Attorney General has full carriage of. It's not something with which I could in any way, shape or form interfere, except to say that it is obviously an issue that has troubled a great many people in terms of the length, the scope and the breadth of the investigation and its effect on the many, many women involved. I can only say that I would hope and expect that every government official, everyone working on behalf of the government of Ontario would be treating everyone with respect and compassion, and where that is not the case, to respond very directly and very swiftly, which is exactly what we've done.

Mrs Caplan: The Premier must understand that it is his duty, the duty of his government and his Attorney General to see to the administration of justice in this province and to see that that administration is now thrown into disrepute and lack of confidence. I would say to the Premier of this province that members of the public must not fear that confidential information will be used against them if they disagree with or challenge the government. I would ask him to stand in his place today and admit that the actions of his office constitute an abuse of power and a gross abuse of the public trust.

1510

Hon Mr Rae: I think I've indicated as clearly as I can how I feel about what took place between Mr Piper and a journalist for the Toronto Sun newspaper. I think that it was quite inappropriate. I think, frankly, it showed a judgement which does not in any way correspond to the way I do things or the way I would approve of or the way which I've ever seen as appropriate.

I would say to the honourable member that the attempt to use information or to pass on information which was intended, I presume, to speak to the credibility of a person who has made certain allegations with respect to events at Grandview is something which I just find quite unacceptable. I've made that very, very clear, and I would say to the honourable members—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —that this government has taken very clear action.

The member raises the question of the report, and I would say to the honourable member that she knows full well that the Attorney General has taken steps, the steps that he feels are necessary, on the advice of the OPP, with respect to the investigation, and that has been the sole motivating factor behind any decision taken by a member of this government. That's precisely the direction that he has taken and that anyone in our government would take.

The Speaker: New question by the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. On November 20, 1990, the speech from the throne: "My government's first challenge is to earn the trust and respect of the people of Ontario. My government's integrity will be measured by the way this government is run and our relations with the people we serve. Our task is to guard against institutional arrogance and the abuse of power wherever they exist." These are your words in the speech from the throne, November 20, 1990. What say you today, Premier, to the people of Ontario?

Hon Mr Rae: I would say exactly the same thing. And I would say—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: And I would say that where we have found that mistakes have been made and errors of judgment have taken place, we have taken steps and we have taken measures, as other governments have taken steps and taken measures, and that's precisely what we will continue to do.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired. Motions? Petitions? The member for Northumberland.

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I move that leave be given to introduce a bill entitled An Act to revive Women in Crisis (Northumberland County), and that it now be read the first time.

The Speaker: Sorry, I thought you had a petition. We're in that section of business entitled Petitions. We'll save that for later. The member for Wilson Heights has a petition.

PETITIONS

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): I have a petition signed by 58 parents and ratepayers from St Antoine Daniel Catholic School. The petition states:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education and, in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto; and whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterparts,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned, so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region;

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value assessment plan is an unfair location tax,

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

I too have affixed my signature to this.

POLICE JOB ACTION

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I have a petition addressed to the Parliament of Ontario expressing, among other things, citizen support for police officers, specifically in Peel region, and indeed throughout the province of Ontario, and secondly, calling upon the government, particularly the Premier of the province, the Honourable Bob Rae, to meet with leadership from the police associations across the province and police officers to deal seriously with the concerns expressed by police officers. There are 113 signatories to this petition and I have attached my signature to it as well.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Parliament of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas this proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of the citizens and their communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we, in union with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of

members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I have also affixed my own signature to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of a legal holiday in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of legal holiday and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This petition takes on particular importance in light of today's activities.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and has severely diminished the role

of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

1520

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas this proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of citizens and the communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we, in union with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

That's signed by several hundred good citizens of this province, and I too will fix my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): I have a petition here signed by 40 residents of the city of Niagara Falls who belong to Main Street Baptist Church. They address this to the provincial Parliament of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, hereby register our opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula.

"We believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular.

"We believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activities."

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned members of Canfield United Church, having been advised of the government's decision to discontinue grants to the Haldimand Association for the Developmentally Handicapped to assist in running the bakeshop at 9 Cayuga Street North, Cayuga, Ontario, would petition the government through the appropriate minister to reconsider this decision and continue support to this worthwhile endeavour in our community."

That is signed by 52 residents. I have affixed my signature.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I have a petition signed by about 400 constituents from my riding that says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the province of Ontario will reverse legislation which would allow the municipalities of Ontario to implement market value assessment as presently proposed due to the adverse effects this would have on the commercial base of Ontario, and that the province of Ontario instead recommend a more equitable system of reassessing properties which would encourage, not discourage, investment in the province of Ontario."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville): I have a petition provided to me from Our Lady of the Rosary church parishioners, which states:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to the terms of Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of legal holiday in the Retail Business Holiday Act. I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families."

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition about market value assessment.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Metro Toronto council has passed an ill-conceived plan to bring in market value assessment in spite of the solid opposition of the city of Toronto; and

"Whereas we believe market value as the basis for property tax assessment in a volatile market such as Metro Toronto is the wrong tax at the wrong time in the wrong place; and

"Whereas market value assessment bears no relation to the level of services provided by the municipality; and

"Whereas, if the province changes legislation to deny the city of Toronto the right to determine our own method of property tax reform, Toronto home owners, tenants and businesses will in future be left to the mercy of regional government; and

"Whereas Toronto businesses are already paying the highest property taxes in North America and our small businesses will be devastated by further increases; and

"Whereas the city of Toronto residents account for 29% of Metro's population but Toronto taxpayers foot 40% of Metro's bills,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to impose market value reassessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto and to allow each local municipality in Metro Toronto the autonomy to determine our own method of property tax reform in our own municipality."

I've signed this and thoroughly agree with it.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I've affixed my signature as well.

DAY CARE

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I have a petition as follows:

"Whereas the Ministry of Community and Social Services has embarked upon a plan to introduce a system of universal day care in the province of Ontario at a significant cost to taxpayers; and

"Whereas this plan will take away parental choice, put 650 privately owned day care centres out of business and throw 6,500 employees out of work and do nothing to improve the quality, affordability or accessibility of day care,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to treat both non-profit and privately owned day care centres equally, to cease funding capital and startup costs of non-profit day care centres, and to use the funds rather to provide increased subsidies directly to those parents qualifying for assistance."

It's signed by 62 ratepayers from Brampton, and I have affixed my signature as well.

GAMBLING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my signature.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): A petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, hereby request you to vote against the passing of Bill 38. We believe that this bill defies God's laws, violates the principle of religious freedom, reduces the quality of life, removes all legal protection to workers regarding when they must work and will reduce rather than improve the prosperity of our province.

"The observance of Sunday as a non-working day was not invented by man but dates from God's creation and is an absolute necessity for the wellbeing of all people, both physically and spiritually.

"We beg you to defeat the passing of Bill 38"; signed by 15 residents, and I've affixed my signature.

1530

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WOMEN IN CRISIS

(NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY) ACT, 1992

On motion by Mrs Fawcett, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr71, An Act to revive Women in Crisis (Northumberland County).

CITY OF LONDON ACT, 1992

On motion by Mrs Cunningham, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr65, An Act respecting the City of London.

ONTARIO TRAINING

AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONSEIL ONTARIEN DE FORMATION ET D'ADAPTATION DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE

On motion by Mr Allen, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 96, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board / Loi créant le Conseil ontarien de formation et d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have any comments?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): Just to say that this bill establishes the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, otherwise known as OTAB, a crown agency which is to assume broad responsibility for the promotion, funding, coordination, design and provision of programs and services with respect to the labour force training and adjustment.

OPPOSITION DAY

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr Harris moved opposition day motion number 4:

Whereas 320,000 jobs have been lost in Ontario; and

Whereas there are 595,000 unemployed individuals in this province; and

Whereas over one million persons are dependent on welfare; and

Whereas the NDP's Jobs Ontario Training fund has proven to be nothing more than a public relations scam; and

Whereas the NDP government's flagship program for older workers, Transitions, is badly backlogged to the point where participants have to wait more than 34 weeks to have an application approved; and

Whereas the NDP government is incapable of managing change and has failed to prepare Ontario for job creation; and

Whereas our children need to have the skills necessary to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing workplace;

Therefore, this House calls upon the NDP government to immediately:

(a) review the job training initiatives that are outlined in the Progressive Conservative caucus's documents New Directions Vol I: A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Vol II: A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario;

(b) redirect the resources that have been allocated to implementing its flawed Ontario Training and Adjustment Board to improving delivery of the Transitions program;

(c) repeal the Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment (Bill 40) as a means of attracting new job-creating investment to Ontario;

(d) tie social assistance payments more directly to job training.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I'll be our first speaker and I believe we have three-party agreement to divide the time.

It is with some degree of concern that we have to place such a motion before the House on this opposition day, especially as we understand that there are so many unemployed in Ontario right now, that there are so many people waiting for training, that there are so many young people who don't know what direction our school system is moving in and that there are so many parents, teachers, employers and workers who really want to find a solution to the tremendous challenges facing us in Ontario.

I think that the key to this opposition day and the reason that we've presented it is to let everyone know that we in the Conservative Party are trying to present solutions to problems. The one way we have chosen, at least in the area I speak for our party on, is A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, which was referred to by our leader in his opposition motion, New Directions volume 2. I think it's extremely important that all the citizens of Ontario have an opportunity, either via their school boards or via phoning our party, to take a look at this document and have input to the solutions we present.

I do know that without our education institutions and without the excellence in education that we've know in the

past and without the support for the future, we will not be able to train our youth so that they can compete in today's global economy. At the same time school boards are extremely concerned about initiatives of this government that have not been agreed to by the teachers and the parents. In fact there has been no public consultation on issues such as destreaming.

The Minister of Education and this government claim that destreaming, which has become a household word and which means the removal of course labels such as "basic," "general" and "advanced" in September 1993 so that there will be just one level in a classroom, will enhance equity, lower dropout rates and remove barriers for students when there are school boards across this province that have learned that putting all children in one classroom without regard or support for their individual needs does just the opposite.

There are many models of basic, general and advanced programs in our school systems that have been particularly successful. That's not to say there isn't room for destreamed classrooms—there is room—but they do exist now, and I have to tell you that we've been told that the pilot projects that were implemented around destreaming have not been analysed.

School boards are most upset by this initiative on behalf of the government. The idea of it was first introduced in 1989, by of course the Liberal government. All of us in this House have been meeting with our school boards, teachers, principals, students and parents to discuss the direction that the ministry is moving in with respect to education in this province. We're hearing the same thing from everyone, that there has been a lack of consultation. Parents are just learning about this initiative now, because of local media, because of concerns of school boards, and are phoning our office to receive further information and register their complaints.

Unfortunately, we're not able to respond in a positive manner, because the minister has not been able to respond to our questions in this House. He stated that there will be a three-year phase-in period. As for the pace at which the full implementation takes place, he has stated that it's being left up to local school boards. He's also added that he will be sending out some clear explanations in this regard, but the school boards, to our best knowledge, have not yet received them.

We also know that teachers without experience—and there are many who haven't had experience with destreamed classes—must be trained and retrained so that they're fully equipped to deal with this experience. We know that this program is to be introduced in September 1993, and there have been, to our best knowledge, no new dollars to train or retrain teachers.

We also know that although there is some support for this initiative, as I explained earlier, there must also be smaller classes. We're not certain what the level of transfer payment will be this year.

We also know that core curriculum is not in place throughout our education system, and that's exactly what parents want to know, what their students will be learning year by year, grade by grade. All these questions remain

unanswered. The ministry said that it was reviewing postponing streaming until grade 11, but it hasn't confirmed this yet. We know that there are many unanswered questions.

1540

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association stated that:

"The education of secondary level students in Ontario will be in chaos if the Ministry of Education proceeds with its plan to force schools to implement destreaming without providing the necessary resources to do so."

They continue to say:

"Public school boards cannot support mandatory destreaming of grade 9 by September 1993 unless we are assured that destreaming will enrich and not detract from the quality of education."

School boards, teachers and many parents do not support this initiative, and at a time when parents and employers are calling upon education to do more to equip students for the workforce and post-secondary education, destreaming could reduce the opportunities for students to specialize in their studies. Why then, we ask, would the government pursue this matter with a total lack of support?

With regard to curriculum form, which seems also to be an issue that teachers and parents and students are hearing about and are concerned about, we know that of particular concern is the lack of new curriculum material required for destreamed classrooms and those plans to retrain teachers.

We also know that we received two draft documents, which the ministry said are old copies and since have been revised. We'd love to see them.

We're absolutely disappointed to find out that there's no indication that the ministry will be establishing this grade-by-grade outcome so that parents know if their children have specifically mastered the skills required of them at the end of a specific grade.

With regard to transfer payments already mentioned, school boards are going to be waiting with some degree of concern with regard to the response from the ministry for the consistent transfer payments as promised on January 21, 1992, by the Treasurer.

By the way, they were historically low transfer payments. At no time before in this province have we ever looked at a 1% transfer payment to school boards, with promises for 2% in the upcoming year and 2% in the following year.

School boards, universities and community colleges recognize that these economically difficult times have made responsible financial decisions based on your government's announcement impossible. School boards and universities are now hearing they may not even receive the promised 2% transfer payments for 1993. If this is true, how in fact can they plan and organize and run their school systems, as they would hope, like a business, which is what the taxpayers are expecting?

We wonder how the province can be organized and managed in this regard with these changes at the last minute, but we do know that if this government is truly committed to improving the economic situation in this province, it will ensure that the transfer payment agencies receive their

2% increase for the next two years so that they can continue to educate our youth so that the young people can meet the challenges of tomorrow.

If the Treasurer does proceed with education cutbacks, then school boards will have no choice but to reduce school programs or increase local property taxes.

One of the great complaints of local municipal governments in the past, especially school boards, has been the thinking up of new programs here at Queen's Park, in the Mowat Block, with no resources to support them. I have to tell you that under Bill 88, which was tabled last week, all school boards must provide junior kindergarten by September 1994, whether they like it or not.

Local school boards are elected to represent parents and students and taxpayers, and I can hardly believe that some 19 school boards that do not offer junior kindergarten in these tough times are going to be required to do so by September 1994 in spite of a lack of space and in spite of a lack of dollars. It seems to me that we really truly have a government which promised to listen and which is not listening, in spite of its understanding of the great concerns.

As we talk about training, today the minister tabled a bill with regard to OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, and I responded in a way today that wasn't as positive as I would have liked. That was because the whole process with regard to this Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, the community discussions, which I have a copy of here, were dealt with in a manner that didn't receive the confidence of the public.

Many people were given 5 or 10 minutes, and we knew today for sure that in fact the government didn't listen to the public. There was not one change in the makeup of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, and in spite of the emphasis on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, the public hearings just related to the local boards. I will tell you also, Mr Speaker, that the local training boards, which have done so much for Ontario and many of whom have evaluated training needs of communities, were totally ignored.

The concern of the education community that it was underrepresented on the board was not addressed. There was no change in that regard.

And there will be no role for the community industrial training committees that I spoke of before, resulting, I think, in the loss of existing local expertise.

It is my great hope these boards will advise us that all their members, who have produced and worked so hard with their local communities, will be appointed to the boards.

I'd also like to say at this time that the government has been most unsuccessful in its Jobs Ontario Training fund. Only 600 to 700 of some 10,000 people have been listened to or given any of the training they were promised; just 600 to 700 out of 10,000 promised places.

In the Transitions program, which is for older workers, there's a 34-week waiting list. Many of these people have to go on unemployment before they're eligible for any training.

We put this motion forward today because we wanted the government to know that we're extremely concerned

with the lack of response on its behalf to the tremendous need for jobs and training in the province of Ontario. We hope they will look seriously not only at our Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, where we have put forward the concerns and suggestions on behalf of the public who spoke to us, in a very positive way, but that they will look at our recommendations for change, which we hope will be most helpful to them in their deliberations as they deal with responsibility, I hope, with the challenges in Ontario today.

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): It's my pleasure to stand and speak on this opposition motion, to be able to address some of the issues that pertain to training in Ontario and, in particular, initiatives being taken by this government.

Mr Speaker, perhaps you would advise me, since I haven't been advised—I've been out of the House in a scrum—as to how many minutes I have for the presentation.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Allen: Forty-five minutes? We're moving around. So it's not en bloc: We're not doing three blocs, we're doing a series of individual speakers.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The time is divided equally, Minister.

Hon Mr Allen: I would just like to speak globally for a moment. Ontario and Canada are not exactly without a talented and skilled workforce. In fact, in world competitiveness reports, the measure was that we stood about fifth out of 27 countries that were being compared. That's not bad. But when you look at some breakdowns and you look at where the training is happening and whom the training is for, you realize there are a lot of major problems there in terms of the capacity of various parts of our workforce to access training.

That is partly because of the division of responsibilities that has grown up in this country between federal and provincial governments; the way in which past governments in this province have responded piecemeal to the training problems of their time; and the fact that there are further divisions in terms of municipal initiatives, in terms of a breakdown between community private trainers, schools, universities, colleges. There has been across the front a very divided set of training initiatives around the province that have been difficult to access.

If you look at the amount we devote per worker to training, you discover, for example, that in this province and country, we devote about half the amount to training for employed workers at this point in time that is provided in a country like the United States, which in turn is only half of what happens in France and less than what happens in Germany, Sweden, Japan and so on.

So notwithstanding the fact that the education system in general has provided a fairly decent level of skills in the province, in certain important respects we have some major deficits to make up. Most of all, in order to become a thoroughly competitive economy, with a workforce that is first-ranked in terms of training, we have some measure to go.

1550

That is why when this government first came to power and we looked at, for example, the amount of federal financial transfers for training that we received in this province, we discovered that notwithstanding the fact that we have 38% of the workforce in this province, we were only receiving 23% of the federal training transfers. That, to us, was not satisfactory.

So we went into a series of very hardheaded negotiations in which we finally concluded a new agreement with the federal government, which got us at least up to slightly over 30% and overall did much better than any other government across this country in terms of the total new dollars that were being accessed from the federal government. As a result of our negotiations, we got about 85% of the new dollars that were being allocated, and that massively boosted the amount of resources available to us.

At the same time, this province began allocating considerably larger amounts of money for training. In the first year of that agreement, we indicated that we were allocating \$751 million, considerably in excess of the past for training initiatives, and this past year we have moved that up by 24%, so that we now allocate almost \$1 billion, \$930 million, for training initiatives in this province.

Those dollars, of course, are being used to fund quite a diverse range of training initiatives. I don't want to go into them all, but they include, for example, the whole administration and deployment of apprenticeship across the province of Ontario. But this government was not satisfied simply to accept the programs it inherited in the field of apprenticeship. Almost immediately, realizing we were going into a recession, realizing there was a major problem in terms of the retention of apprentices in a downturn economy, we became the only province in the country, and the only province ever, to introduce a laid-off apprenticeship program, which devoted \$6 million to retaining apprentices in their training and in their workplaces in order to assure them of the capacity to further their apprenticeship even though the economy was on the way down.

We have since then allocated a further \$13.7 million for the renewal and extension of apprenticeship. That will, of course, then lay the basis in apprenticeship for the new Ontario Training and Adjustment Board to take over the apprenticeship branch and its activities and move into still further reforms and developments to expand apprenticeship as a means of training in Ontario.

In the meantime, we had already expanded the dollars going into pre-employment, apprenticeship training. We had expanded dollars going into technologist upgrading, for example, so that people in technological programs work across the province could get access to specially arranged programs devised for them, for their upgrading, in sites across this province. Many of those programs, in fact, were offered free of charge to people who were seeking upgrading. All of that with the intention of making the economy much more productive through a better level of training for technologists and technicians across Ontario.

Of course, we are in somewhat of an emergency situation with regard to people who are out of work, with regard to people who are on social assistance rolls and

with regard to people who are unemployed and have exhausted their unemployment benefits. The numbers are now becoming quite staggering.

This government therefore decided last spring that it was essential to launch an emergency program which would combine job creation and training. We at first went out there thinking that we would do the traditional kind of job creation program, which would be kind of a wage subsidy program. So many governments have done that: You provide a wage subsidy to an employer; he creates a job for, say, 20 weeks; the employee then is able to re-qualify for unemployment assistance and therefore becomes a charge on the federal government, off the backs of the provincial government. But then what does that do? It simply sets up a continual cycle in which nobody really makes any further headway.

When we went out there asking, "What kind of program should we put in place?" we got some very good advice from both labour and business. They said: "Don't do the old kind of job creation program. Don't do the wage subsidy program. Do something that gives people some add-on benefits, some value added out of this." So what we finally decided to do was to create a series of training credits, very generous training credits, up to \$10,000 that an employer could access in order to put a new worker to work in his or her plant and provide them with training, but could access at least 50% of those dollars in order to provide the training for other workers who are in that workplace.

Of course, when it was announced at the end of April, it took some time to put in place a sophisticated set of brokerages all across Ontario. That was complete by August 17 and doors opened, but still, at that point in time, people were getting themselves set up, working out the bugs and getting used to the operation and were finally able to begin to receive employment options from employers and to begin to match people on social assistance with that program.

While we had that article by the Star which made it look as though we'd spent \$1.1 billion and only created 600 jobs at the time, the sheer fact of the matter is that this program had only been up and running for just slightly over two months. What was happening out there was that we had at that point, when the article appeared, something like 3,200 jobs registered in the brokerages offices which we were busy filling. We'd already filled some 675 of them. Now, about a week and a half later, what have we got? We've got almost 4,500 jobs on register in those same offices, we've got almost 900 jobs filled, and we are getting job proposals, positions, being offered to our brokers across the province at the rate of 300 to 400 a week.

If that isn't a major and significant initiative and a remarkable development in terms of training in a very short space of time, and employment in a very short space of time, I don't know what is.

Of course, in that same period of time, the member for London North made some reference to the fact that there were so few graduates of the pre-employment programs. We created 1,100 places and we have put them all through their paces, and they have been graduating, these last few weeks, across the province. What has been happening for

them? What has been happening for them is that in Ottawa, for example, there were 38 persons in this particular class. A few days after the class was completed and they had their graduation ceremonies, there are 34 of them who are now either at work or in further training.

[Laughter]

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): That's a high percentage.

Hon Mr Allen: Exactly, a high percentage; more than 90%.

If you look at the group that just came through the pre-employment program at Mohawk College in Hamilton, there were 101. They just had their graduation ceremony. I was at it. The members who laughed perhaps might have been moved to tears to listen to some of the graduates of that program explain what they felt they had accomplished in the course of a summer, preparing them for the workplace. It is a moving experience, and I suggest that the member who chuckled about all this should go to one of those events and really get on the ground with respect to this program. Of those 101, three days after they were finished their program—and I was at the graduation—50 of them were already at work and 30 of them were in active interview situations, with good prospects. The operators of the program at Mohawk, who have got great experience in this kind of thing, were expecting very high percentages of success in this program.

Just today, my colleague from Windsor has a report for me about what has been happening over at the St Clair meeting, for example, with regard to the brokerage at St Clair College. They have 218 positions on file, and they have so far, out of social assistance recipients, filled 83. That's remarkable. Those are people who are no longer on the social assistance rolls. Those are people who are working, finding fulfilment, being creative, contributing to the competitiveness of this economy, creating the renewal of Ontario's economic life.

1600

So there is no reason to think that in the first full year in the operation of the Jobs Ontario program we will not in fact achieve the kind of targets we have set for ourselves, which admittedly were ambitious. But the program is in that respect, for a full year's operation, on target.

Finally, let me just say that today, of course, I introduced the legislation to create the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. This is a board which will do for this country what has been done in a few other countries in the past, by bringing together the various leadership partners from the labour market to direct and operate the training programs of a jurisdiction.

In some countries these have been rather long-standing institutions; in some others not so long. Germany has had this kind of structure for some time. Holland just recently went about trying to create this kind of structure. It took them 10 years to do what we're doing in the space of three or four. In Great Britain it took approximately the same length of time it's taking us.

There's nothing untoward at the moment about the progress we're making towards the Ontario Training and Ad-

justment Board. Employers who have never worked together across this province before as a group on the training agenda are now working together as a group on the training agenda. We have labour, which has never had a fully coordinated approach to the training agenda across this province, now working on that agenda. Francophones across this province who have never worked together on the training agenda now have training organizations in place to do something.

We have the educators and trainers. Never before in the history of this province have universities, colleges, schools, community trainers and private trainers sat down in one room and talked about the training agenda in Ontario—never. Never have women's groups in this province sat down across the province and talked about the training agenda. Never have disabled persons; never have racial minorities.

I'm telling you, in the course of the last year and a half we have put all that in place and it is there as a fundamental reference base and social base for the whole training and adjustment board that will exist in this province in the future. What each of those groups will do, of course, will be to provide the ongoing advisory base and the ongoing nomination facility that will place people on the boards and advise them over the years to come.

I think we've done an immense amount. It doesn't look very visible yet to the broader public. OTAB is just coming on stream and it will be taking over major functions of the government that are now diverse, spread across diverse ministries, concentrating them, coordinating them, gaining new efficiencies. This isn't going to be a brand new big bureaucracy, because it's taking people already at work in most of these programs, taking them over in OTAB. It is going to get more efficiencies out of them by virtue of putting them together in a single institution and coordinating their activities.

This government is proud of what it is doing in the training agenda, proud of the constituencies it has put together to bring a new era of training to Ontario, creating a training culture and providing for the kind of competitive context in which business can function in this province and workers can work and gain the kind of objectives for their personal lives that, of course, have to reside and be based in their working lives and their capacity to earn money and to spend it. That, of course, is good news for all of us, and I look forward very much to the cooperation of everybody in the House, on both sides of this Legislature, as we go into creating a new training culture for this province and a new era of competitiveness in the Ontario economy.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Scarborough-Agincourt.

Mr Phillips: I'm pleased to join the debate on the motion. Before I get into the area I want to discuss, I'll just comment briefly on OTAB.

I would say to all members of the House that the most significant part of this is the establishment as a crown agency. The publicly elected people in this province will have virtually no say in this. The Premier often talked about moving training from a federal responsibility to a

provincial responsibility. I'll just say to the members of the Legislature, it has skipped the province and is going to an independent crown corporation over which the government has virtually no control. I would ask all of us to take a very close look at that part.

But I wanted to talk a little bit about a part of the motion here that talks about the NDP government being "incapable of managing change." The government members may wonder why there is the real concern around the Piper issue. I will just say to the government members—and I hope they recall when I first raised this issue—that I saw this coming. It was inevitable that we would see something like this.

Where it started was when two very insignificant government documents came into the hands of the official opposition. One was a mere document called Questions and Answers. Do you remember that? It was about a year ago. In both those cases the government called in the Ontario Provincial Police. This was the start of my major concern about the trust of this government. Do you remember when they called in the OPP and went after the official opposition? This is very dangerous stuff.

When the state starts to order its police force to go into the opposition's offices and to interrogate the opposition, it's the start of something that is very dangerous. I wondered why some of the government members didn't raise it in caucus, didn't say to the Premier, "This doesn't sound right, the OPP going into the opposition's offices and investigating minor leaks."

Then, you may recall, Mr Speaker, that the Premier himself said in answer to my concerns in the Legislature, and they were major concerns about the abuse of the police: "There may be a legitimate question that should be referred to a parliamentary committee with respect to this kind of question. I have no objection to its being considered in that way."

Then, when we finally did get it to a committee, all the government members refused to appear, wouldn't come to that committee, wouldn't allow that committee to do any work. We were stonewalled in that.

But that's when I first had major concerns about the direction the government was taking in terms of its trust and its abuse of power. I was shocked that none of the members of the government back bench would have stood up and objected to that.

The second major concern was when the Premier's executive assistant sent a letter to the chairman of the OMB, the Ontario Municipal Board. As you know, that is what's called a quasi-judicial body. It's the body that is supposed to protect the citizens of this province from their governments and from abuse. It is supposed to be a body that is detached from government. But what happened? The Premier's executive assistant sent a letter to the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board saying that this was a project that the government supported and wanted dealt with expeditiously.

You can't do that. The Premier can't do that. It's wrong, wrong, wrong, and every one of you knows that. Every one of the backbenchers on the government side has been told: "Don't write to the OMB. You can't do that."

But what happened? The Premier himself wrote. Don't you begin to wonder about the trust that you can have in the Premier when he himself decides that he can write a letter directing the OMB to take action?

You may want to barrack and argue against it, but that is the second thing that raises concern by members in the opposition about the way this government views things. I must say I think I know why. I think the government, particularly the cabinet, somehow or other feels that the world is against it, that someone is out there trying to stop it from implementing its agenda, for whatever reason. They believe that to the bottom of their souls.

I'm sure at caucus you must have discussions of, "Gosh, it seems like all the establishment's against us." Where does that lead you? It leads you then, I'm afraid, to saying that the end, which is the NDP agenda, justifies the means. So we see the OPP being asked to come in and investigate leaks to the opposition—

The Deputy Speaker: I would remind you of the topic of the debate.

1610

Mr Phillips: The topic is very clear, and that is, is the government capable of managing change? I would say that the government is losing the trust of the people with actions like sending in the OPP, with actions like the Premier of the province writing to the OMB, with actions like saying that we will have a hearing to get at the heart of the matter with regard to the Holt affair at Ontario Hydro.

Do you remember that, Mr Speaker? The Minister of Energy said, "Everything will come out at the hearing when we have the legislative hearing on Mr Holt's severance." We get there, and there is a complete shutdown of anyone coming to that legislative committee.

The reason I raise this is, what is most important to the government? It is trust; it is people in this province having a sense of confidence in this government, feeling that they can at least trust it. The latest affair, the Piper affair, comes as no shock to us in opposition, because we could see it coming.

I would say that we have significant concerns about the government's ability to manage its finances, and from the day that the Rae budget came out, we have expressed concerns about how the numbers are reported. I'll repeat those concerns again today because it has to do with the government's ability to get the confidence of the people of Ontario to manage the financial affairs of this province.

We see, for example, that in its latest report, after six months, the government continues to say we are going to get \$1.2 billion from the federal government in something that's called fiscal stabilization funds. There is not a hope that they will get more than a fraction of that, but it continues to be put in the budget as \$1.2 billion worth of revenue this year. That is why people are beginning to get right at the heart of the matter of a government, and that's questioning its ability and its trustworthiness.

I'd also say, Mr Speaker, that in this budget you'll find something called "revenue from sales and rentals." Here's exactly what's going to happen there: There's going to be a paper transfer. It's like a flip. They are going to flip \$400

million worth of government land over into the Ontario Land Corp, they're going to flip \$400 million worth of government buildings over into that and they're going to sell \$315 million worth of GO trains to some offshore investor and then lease them back. Those are the three things that will happen; there's no question of that. Flipping \$400 million worth of land: All it is is a paper transfer. It will be flipped into the Ontario Land Corp, which is a crown corporation of the government. The \$400 million worth of buildings will be flipped into the land corporation, which again is simply a government agency.

The last thing they did was to postpone \$564 million worth of pension payments that were due this fiscal year to next fiscal year.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): At a price.

Mr Phillips: It's all smoke and mirrors. As my colleague from Etobicoke West said, "At a price," and it is at a price. The taxpayers are going to pay a penalty on that. We're going to pay extra interest charges of \$3 million on that. It's just like throwing money away. Every time some group in our constituency says, "How come we are being held back on the services?" I'll say, "Because Bob Rae chose to spend \$3 million in extra interest payments because he wanted to artificially show the wrong deficit number."

The reason I raise this is that at the heart of a government's ability to govern is the trust that people will have in it. I wanted to outline why we on this side of the House have serious concerns about how much we can trust Bob Rae and the government. We've been burned by him calling in the OPP, to the laughter of the opposition, on insignificant documents which came into our possession. The reason they were called in was merely to intimidate us and to intimidate the people who gave them to us.

We've seen a letter by the Premier of this province to the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board instructing him to do his bidding. We've seen a variety of things that I don't think the Treasurer supports, that in my opinion are under direction from the Premier's office to report the finances in a way that we don't think accurately reflects them.

So I wanted to raise those matters to show the kind of climate that we in the opposition are operating under and the climate that I think this government is being judged with. With those remarks, I conclude and say that I am truly concerned about the way this government is choosing to deal with its power; I'm truly concerned with what can only be described as its gross abuse of its power.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I am delighted to lend my support to my party leader's resolution today on this opposition day motion about jobs and training for Ontario. As the Community and Social Services advocate and the seniors' advocate, the matters before us in the House today are of great concern to me.

I want to say at the outset that it's no surprise, now that we're living in a full-fledged welfare state, that we end up in the kind of situation that we're in. I'm reminded of immediately following the Second World War when England was in the process of rebuilding itself and there were various academics who applied their minds to what was helpful for

postwar England. At that time Sir William Beveridge named the five giants that postwar Britain should set out to destroy, and they were want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness.

After 50 years, it's clear to those welfare states around the world that the most devastating of these to a society is idleness. That's what the economists are telling us, all the social scientists are telling us, the newspapers are telling us, but most important, that's what the public is telling us, the growing numbers of unemployed people in this province whose loss of dignity, whose loss of self-respect, whose loss of feeling of worth in their own family environment has gripped them as a result of a government that has its own existing labour policy—to protect those with jobs—but it has no policy in place, no economic strategy, to specifically deal with this issue of the growing numbers of unemployed, people who are resigned to social assistance, people who are quite frankly idle, frustrated and not contributing to our society at this most critical time in our society's history.

There are a lot of issues that I want to raise today, there are a lot of concerns, from one who has been watching our social assistance system. Constantly people are telling us, whether they're coming into the food banks in my riding of Burlington: "I want a job. I want any kind of work. I want a STEP to employment. I want to be doing something other than being here trying to just make ends meet."

So when our party says that social assistance should be tied more directly to training and employment opportunities, we have listened to the growing numbers of disenfranchised young people who have finished with their education and find that there's no employment out there and are so disenfranchised with the kinds of programs that are of limited access to them that they ask the basic question, "Why can't government organize social assistance so that it is tied to training and employment opportunities?"

1620

It's a very basic question, but I don't believe it's within the capacity of this government to be able to understand the fundamental point here, that training has to be tied as well to those people who are on social assistance.

In the short time that I have, I also wanted to make a reference to some of the contradictions of this government, such as its approach to the disabled community and their access to training dollars. We heard from this government all sorts of commitments at election time that it was going to help disabled individuals and yet this government has trimmed \$5 million from sheltered workshops, which are training institutional environments for our disabled community.

The government said, "Oh, but by the way, we'll take \$3 million out of that \$5 million and put it into new training initiatives." Well, we're not seeing those new initiatives. What in fact we've been seeing is that the government is continuing to fund sheltered workshops and the training that's going on there at 100% taxpayer dollars, and going out and closing sheltered workshops out in the community. Do you know what the essential difference between those two workshops is, other than the fact that taxpayers subsidize sheltered workshops in the community

at 80%, and 100% of the costs in an institution are borne by taxpayers? The difference is that Fred Upshaw and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union workers are in those institutions, and on that point, to save their jobs, they will support those sheltered workshop training environments for our disabled young adults in this province.

But it is an offence, it is a human offence, for this government to state on the one hand that in fact it supports the disabled community and their training needs when this offensive practice of protecting union jobs in institutions while destroying the opportunities for the training goes on with the disabled community in this province. It's more than a crisis; it is a scandal that deserves to be exposed, to show the contradiction in this government and the kind of low priority it puts on training the differently abled people in this province.

As I say, there are other issues such as the fact that women who are forced to flee abusive situations simply ask if they can have access to shelter and perhaps access to day care services for their children so that they can begin the process of rebuilding their lives and have access to training and therapy and to day care services. Nowhere has this government tied into its training regimen the special and unique needs of battered women in this province.

We heard this morning at our meeting with the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses that this is a very critical issue. As they said at the meeting, it's more profitable to stay on welfare—and this is the message that we're getting from this government—than it is to go out and seek employment when there are none of these additional services in place in order to recognize that this woman must begin to rebuild her life as a single parent.

I believe my time has nearly come to an end, but I wanted to mention one other issue. We talk about trying to assist the poor with training opportunities and assisting them to go look for jobs in this city of greater Toronto, and yet there have been proposals from Gerard Kennedy to assist with the access to a Metropass. The costs of transportation are so serious and so expensive that even if we could set up training regimens for these people, if we could tie work to social assistance, the fact is that we have a government without the political will to greater utilize our rapid-transit systems in greater Toronto to ensure that the poor have mobility in order to achieve training.

Yes, the government's guidelines are written in such a way that if you want to take your training in Ottawa, they'll put you up in a hotel and they'll pay your expenses, and we've seen some of the abuses of the supports to employment program in this regard. But those are for a finite, small group of very, very fortunate people who have access to that program in this province. What we're saying is that we have to radically rethink the way we provide training services so that the poor will also have access to the kinds of ancillary services that are so essential in order to ensure that they can maintain a training regimen that's tied to their social assistance.

I wish to commend my leader, Mr Harris, the member for Nipissing, for his commitment in this regard. I will be supporting this motion wholeheartedly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): It's my pleasure to stand here today to speak on this resolution. As I read it, I start to understand that what I was arguing in 1988 is now actually becoming a reality.

But before I get into that, I was very interested in listening to Mr Phillips's comments that he dealt with scandals. For five years the Liberals ignored the issues of training workers and getting workers back on, because they were in good economic times. Why bother training workers and developing a better apprenticeship training program in those workplaces when you can talk the rhetoric we just heard today instead of dealing with the specifics of workers?

When I look at the numbers that are indicated in this resolution, there are a number of things that I reflect on. When I see the 595,000 jobs lost, it reminds me of back in 1988 when we entering into the free trade argument. The numbers that the labour movement and the working people in the province of Ontario were using—we were trying to identify a concern that the working people of Ontario had, especially in my riding which is heavily automotive and agricultural and we brought these numbers out. The Tory party of the federal government, with its economic policies, said, "No, no, we're going to have jobs, jobs, jobs."

The impact of what has happened today is because of the free trade agreement. In my own community especially, I see the impacts it's having, especially on the older workers. As I also read in the resolution, it talks about the delay in the older worker program, Transitions, being a 34-week backlog. That tells me something, that the plants that are closing were part of the foundation in small communities or in the community in itself, which has to relate back to the first item I talked about, which was about the impacts of the free trade agreement.

Then I look at the issue of training our younger people. I remember back in 1981, I happened to be one of those younger individuals who was in a workplace and went through the 1981-82 recession, and 1983. During that time frame as a young individual in that community I was fighting for retraining programs to help us bring our skills up. But the Tory government at that time provincially and the Liberal government at that time federally turned a blind eye to it because they'd seen the economic situation starting to turn, so why try to fix something? They said: "Well, good times are here. Why do we need to upgrade our skills?" Even their own statistics proved that our unskilled labour force was starting to move to a more skilled, added-value labour force. But they ignored those statistics and thought they could sit back, enjoy the free ride with good economic times and not worry about training our younger people to adapt into a high-tech field.

When I start looking at the issues about meeting the challenges, this government has met more of the challenges in two years than I know the Conservative government provincially and the Liberal government provincially have done in the 10 years before we even came in, because what we're faced with is a federal economic policy that's a dark cloud coming over Ontario that's hurting agricultural communities, especially when you deal with the ridings of

Essex-Kent and Chatham-Kent, God's country of agriculture. We're feeling the impacts of what's happened around that.

In those two communities we also know the impact because most of the plants that were established in rural Ontario, and especially in the ridings of Essex-Kent and Chatham-Kent, were automotive parts sectors, and they were American-based corporations that were established in our communities. When we saw the free trade agreement coming in, we knew that those plants would be closed down. The only reason they were there was because of the Canadian content rule.

Now we're hearing the Tory party put forward a resolution by its fearless leader, talking about the impacts that supposedly the NDP government has had. It's their federal Tory policies that have caused these numbers to skyrocket.

But what we're trying to do through the initiatives like the Minister of Skills Development is doing around OTAB—something they say is new is old. I remember the argument about OTAB being put forward in 1981 and I can testify—my wife is probably watching this right now, because she put up with the headaches of me not being home, of making sure that I was fighting for retraining programs, for ones that were more centralized and more diverse, to help our communities establish those.

1630

When I started reading this resolution I found it kind of ironic because it talks about Jobs Ontario Training fund. An employer in my community—75 people have entered that program in Navistar. The only Canadian manufacturer of trucks in Canada and in Ontario is in my riding and it has hired 75 people under Jobs Ontario. It helps the bottom line out.

I have funeral directors calling me and they say, "Well, this is only for the big companies." I have funeral directors calling my office and talking to the brokerage about hiring people and training them. You know, it is a dead business and business is a little dead, but you're trying to use that to promote education.

You talk about our agricultural community. Our agricultural community is citing Jobs Ontario as being an initiative. The farmers in my community who have pork producing are asking, "Jobs Ontario can help me?" and they're making inquiries.

It's the first thing I've heard from a lot of American boards of directors of companies who are saying: "This NDP government is not all as bad as we're reading. They're putting programs out that are over a three-year initiative." Not only putting the money as a wage subsidy, but putting the money in so it can be totally utilized by the workforce to put skill-added value into our labour force, something that should have been done after the last recession when we identified that there was a surplus in our marketplace. The Liberals carried the free trade a bit and then the Tories took it over and made it an issue in 1988 for us.

It was very ironic that the bottom of the resolution talked about tying social assistance payments directly to job training. If I remember the comments, exactly what came out of that member's mouth in my riding, he talked

about his job training program, about digging ditches, shovelling snow in the winter time.

That was the Tory training policy he was talking about because he made direct comments saying that people on social assistance were making \$17.50 an hour. That created a lot of confusion in my community, when you have the leader of the Conservative Party coming and lambasting—and then they talk about job training.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): They'll say anything for a vote.

Mr Hope: You're absolutely right, anything for a vote.

This resolution is probably one that's been written in the federal House under the free trade agreement that was put forward, because the job loss is the same job loss the labour movement was putting forward back in 1988 when the number of individuals from southwestern Ontario took to the Ambassador Bridge and said, "No, this is a bad deal for us." But did the federal government, which happened to be a Tory government, listen to the people? No.

When I look at the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, an initiative started back in early 1980s, now becoming a reality under an NDP government that took the Tories and the Liberals 10 years to establish and still didn't understand—we listened to the rhetoric put forward by the Liberal member for Scarborough-Agincourt. He dealt with totally the opposite of what this issue and this resolution dealt with.

This government in two years has put more programs in place to help employers and employees. There are a number of jobs we still have to do. I'm not saying it ends now, but I know in my own community, when they talk about Bill 40—you know, we listen to the antics and when I take the (c) of this article which deals with repealing Bill 40 and the (d) which is talking about it, it sends an indication to me they must want us to work like they're working for the wages in the Maquiladoras area.

In the Maquiladoras area they're working for \$2.15 an hour. This is what the Tories want us to do because they're talking about repealing collective rights of individuals in workplaces to make major gains. Then I heard the member for London North, I believe it is, talk about no representation of non-unionized workers on OTAB.

Let me tell you, for the five years I was president of my local union and the five years that I established under the presidency of the labour council, one thing I always did fight for is for the non-unionized workplace, to make sure we were fighting for their rights in legislation. We had a hard time convincing that government over there to move on initiatives that would help the non-unionized workers achieve collective goals, whether it be in training, whether it be in WCB or whether it be in health and safety.

So it's very ironic for me to listen to the member of the Tory party put forward a resolution of this nature and then to listen to the rhetoric coming forward from the Liberals. One thing I can say is that the NDP government in this province in two years has done more in the two years than the Tories and the Liberals have done in their 10. I will not

be supporting this resolution because all it is is a piece of paper that's trying to buy votes somehow.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Mr Harris's motion?

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): I am pleased to join the debate and talk about a concern I have. The members of the Conservative Party have brought forward a resolution that deals with the issue of job training, which I think is worthwhile—job training absolutely is a critical situation in Ontario—but I think it's important that we take a brief look at the situation of job creation. There's not much sense in being trained for a job if there's no one there to offer you that job.

One of the problems that we have is the atmosphere in Ontario. If I could just briefly go through the history, during the 1985-90 era Ontario had the most vibrant economy in the industrialized world. That's not the most vibrant economy in Canada but the most vibrant economy in the industrialized world. Our unemployment rates in Toronto were hovering around the 3.5% mark, and if you know anything about unemployment rates, 4% is considered full employment. We at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology had situations where one of the most trying, difficult situations for our industrial sector was the lack of trained people. As a result, various programs were put in place.

I read with some amusement when the present government released its industrial strategy and had the nerve, and I say the nerve, to say that this is the first government in history that has released such a strategy. To read the strategy is to laugh. All it really is is a Reader's Digest version of the Premier's Council report on competing in a global economy. There is nothing that is new in it. There is nothing that any industrialized nation does not espouse.

How can you be against training your people to make you competitive in a global economy? I think that's important, and I applaud and I support anything that will train our people, but there is not much sense training people for jobs that are not there. That gets to the basis of what is the climate and what is the environment for job creation.

Unfortunately, Ontario happens to be a jurisdiction where we have been dependent on branch plant economies. Many of our industries are offshoots, are divisions of countries from around the world. As the economic crunch tightens—we've seen it and this isn't just Ontario, it's global; there is a recession that has been termed the most severe since the Great Depression of the 1930s—every manufacturer, every businessman, every investor has got to re-evaluate where he is expending his diminishing resources.

They look at jurisdictions, they look at places where they can put that money, and if they feel that there's a hostile environment, if they feel that this is an area where they are not going to be able to work in comfort and know that there's a level playing field, they're going to go somewhere else. Capital has no home, it has no conscience, it has no country. It goes where it feels it has got the greatest reception and where it can get the greatest return on the investment that is utilized.

I want to go back to the first budget of this government. I remember when it was brought forward. The clarion call of the government was: "Deficits don't matter. We are not prepared to fight the recession on the backs of the people of Ontario. So let her rip, let the debt and the deficit climb, because according to John Maynard Keynes, when times get better we'll be able to pay down that deficit."

Let me tell you the ludicrousness of that particular proposition. Can you imagine any government that would have the ability to stand up when times finally get good—and I expect that they will, as all cyclical recessions come to an end—and say: "I'm sorry we cannot give you the moneys that you have been deprived of for the last three years because times are too good. Because times are too good, we can't afford to give you that money, because we have to pay down our debt." What is going to happen of course is that they're going to spend because politically they will not be able to withstand the pressure and they're going to find that this debt is going to continue to rise.

Why is that significant? It's significant because somewhere along the line, that debt, the interest on it, has to be paid.

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I remember the member for Hamilton Centre, the then parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer, passionately defending the government's position as to why it should let these deficits run. He gave it with such passion that it wasn't a question of opinion, it was holy writ: "That is what has to happen and anybody who knows anything about economics would endorse it."

Now of course we have a government that's done a total reversal and is now saying, "We have to cut back; we have to make sure that the deficit doesn't exceed \$10 billion," when in fact the deficit is already up to somewhere around \$12 billion or \$13 billion. They are now saying: "We're going to be cutting back. We're going to be cutting back on our transfer agencies. We're going to be cutting back on what we do so that we can keep that deficit under control." They had no such concern when they started this particular ride up the slippery slope of huge deficits.

What happens is that we have a problem, because the government is dealing with the optics of looking as if it's doing something, so it makes great store of the fact that it's got training going on. But I say to you, the question is, whom are you training, why are you training and where are the jobs? There is not much sense in teaching someone to be a candlemaker when the day he graduates somebody invents the electric lightbulb, because you suddenly find that that person is no longer trained for a job that is available.

We have a situation right now where the unemployment rate is at about 11.3%. There is no shortage of people with great skills who are unemployed. There are lots of them, and all you have to do is look at any one of our communities and you will see people who have spent 20 or 30 years in highly skilled jobs who are no longer working. You're talking about having bragging rights so that one unemployed person who says, "I'm unemployed, and I used to be in this particular category," can now say, "I'm

unemployed, but I'm in a higher category because I've been trained."

What you've got to do is get to the point where you attract new investment to create new jobs, and that is where this government has fallen down. This government has fallen down because it has brought forward legislation that makes it very, very difficult to attract the kind of investment that will create the kinds of jobs that will give those people the jobs they require.

At one time, 150,000 people a year used to migrate to Ontario; I'm talking about in the early 1980s. As many people came into Ontario from within Canada as came into Ontario from outside of Canada. The reason for that was that Ontario was the centre of the industrial heartland of Canada, and if someone wanted a job, he felt his best opportunity was in Ontario.

That has been reversed. We now have a situation where Ontario has got the slowest growth, it's got the highest unemployment rates. If you saw an article in the paper yesterday, the government of Alberta is saying it has a problem now because of the huge influx of workers from Ontario going to Alberta because they think the job opportunities are greater.

The reason is that the investment is not coming here. The Premier has a misguided idea of what he should be doing. He should have been in Detroit where there is a very critical decision taking place as to what investment General Motors is going to keep in this province. The governors of all of the states that are being impacted are there banging on the doors to make sure that the executives of General Motors know of their concern. Our Premier was off in the Far East.

Now, I have no quarrel with going to the Far East and drumming up business, but you've got to get your priorities straight. I am looking forward to talking to the Premier to find out if he got any commitment for Toyota to expand its facility here in Ontario. They've already announced that they're going to expand their facility either in Mexico, in Kentucky, or maybe in Canada. It will be interesting to see what the result of that deliberation is. I can say to you that the prospects do not appear to be very rosy.

Mr Hope: Why is that?

Mr Kwinter: Why is that? All you have to do is take a look at your legislation, take a look at your record.

One of the things about a government is that if you have a difference of policy, that's one thing, but when you are held up to ridicule, that's something else. When you take a look at outsiders' perception of what is going on in this government, when they read about the peccadilloes of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, when they read about what is happening with the Premier's chief policy adviser, when they read about some of the other things, they start to laugh, because it's one thing to deal with a government you don't agree with; it's another thing to deal with a government you have no confidence in, and that is one of the problems.

I would suggest to you that if we're going to do anything about the employment opportunities in this province, we're going to have to make sure that we establish a climate

where investment will come, where jobs will be created, where people will feel there is a future and a government that is going to help them prosper, get a return for their investments, create jobs and be profitable.

The Acting Chair: Thank you. Further debate under time-sharing.

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I'm happy to speak today on the motion from the leader of the third party, and I'm proud to argue against his motion based on the record of this government.

It was with great interest that I read his Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, a document he claims will solve all of Ontario's educational problems. Unfortunately, I came to a different conclusion. I saw it as more a list of philosophical wishes rather than a blueprint for action, as its title would indicate.

This government is proud of the progress we have made in education. We are making schools more efficient by constructing multi-use buildings the entire community can use, buildings that will be a social asset. We are looking to make schools equitable and accessible to all students. This government is putting forward solutions that will address the problems, not just the symptoms of those problems.

For example, the high school dropout rate is unacceptable for Ontario. We are addressing this by destreaming grade 9 to give students an easier transition into high school. Schools that have participated in the pilot projects have been very encouraged by the results. We plan on introducing a curriculum designed to teach students the skills necessary for further education, work and life skills.

This government has been the leader in Canada in fighting this recession. Our federal government has failed to take a leadership role in renewing the economy and has forced the provinces to stand alone. This government developed innovative techniques to ensure that the victims of this recession were not its scapegoats.

Our Jobs Ontario plan, despite what the opposition is saying, is indeed working. As I told the House last week, my riding of Cambridge has benefited significantly as a result of this program. Everyone involved, the Waterloo region, unemployed people, large employers and small businesses, are working together to make this project a success in Cambridge. Similar positive responses to the program are emerging throughout the province.

The federal government, on the other hand, chose to slash transfer payments to the provinces, with this province taking the brunt of the cuts; yet last week, it announced its budget predictions were \$3.4 billion off.

I have to admit, we have battled with our own deficit problems as a government, but we did not abandon the people while fighting it. Instead, we put the people of Ontario first, and we have managed to make some sensible cuts in the process, while providing support for those who need it most.

Remember, it was the Ontario government that initiated a \$700-million job creating program and invited the federal government to participate in expanding job creation by shared funding of additional programs. We'll also

recall that the federal government failed to respond to this challenge. The federal government has decided to follow Ontario's lead by investing in the country's infrastructure, but in the process it has attempted to undermine Ontario. I repeat: The federal government is attempting to undermine Ontario. Ontario represents 35% of Canada's population, yet we are included in only 15% of the federal government's road improvement plan. This is hardly fair, considering that Ontario was the province hardest hit by the recession.

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So this government has learned not to rely on the federal government. Instead, we have developed our own plan, a plan for people, a plan that will take us through this recession to position us favourably to take advantage of upturn in our economy, a plan that brings expenditures under control, a plan to make Ontario an equitable place to live, work and attend school.

Through our new Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, our workforce will be better positioned to compete internationally. The local training needs will be met because the decision will be in the hands of those who know best what those needs are.

This motion presented by the leader of the third party is not based on facts. This government is governing in the worst economic times since the 1930s, and yet we have made improvements for our people that will long be remembered. The leader of the third party is looking for overnight solutions to problems that have been building for years and years and years. There are no quick-fix solutions. However, I am confident that this government is leading this province in the right direction. This government can and should be proud of the work we have done in making Ontario a better place to live.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity of addressing this motion.

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): I too am pleased to rise today in the House and speak to this motion. As a matter of fact, I see it as a wonderful opportunity to share with my colleagues and the folks out there some thoughts I have in front of such a criticism of the government of which I am a part. I find the criticism to be somewhat unfair, given the difficult time that all of us are experiencing in the province at this moment.

Interjection: In the world.

Mr Martin: In the world, yes. Actually, there are a couple of things that I would like to address in the few minutes that I have with you today on this motion. We came to power at a very difficult time in our history, not only because we were in the middle of a recession that's worldwide in nature but also at a time when in fact the way we do business, the way our economy is organized, is undergoing a fundamental shift and change. As a matter of fact, for me, what we're experiencing at this time in our history is akin to the Industrial Revolution. That, in my mind, is going to take a little longer than six months or a year or two years to get a grip on and to begin in fact to develop a blueprint to respond to so that the people of Ontario and the people of all the communities that we

represent might be able to participate more fully in the economy that will emerge.

We, as a government, actually have been involved in a process that is twofold, one obviously responding to some of the crises that we face from one day to the next. In my own community, shortly after I got elected, there was the possibility that we would lose our major company, Algoma Steel. There was a great hue and cry when the parent of that company came out with a plan that spoke to a significant cut in jobs and a significant cut in opportunity for us in the north to actually add value to the resource that we extract so well from our surroundings.

This government, in partnership with the United Steelworkers of America, in partnership with the owners at that time and the management of the day, in partnership with the financial institutions that had a vested interest, spent hours and days and weeks struggling with this question and ultimately came up with a plan that not only responds to the present crises but sets us on a path and speaks very coherently to the kinds of things that we need to do as a province and that we as a government are committed to doing which will carry us through the next short number of years and indeed into the next millennium.

In this instance, we brought people together in a way that they were never brought together before, we created partnerships that a lot of people thought were impossible and we created a climate in that community which encouraged other things to happen as a result of that initiative, which, as I've said, was most clearly and definitely led by our government.

The other thing we're doing at this difficult time in our history, besides dealing with the everyday crises that all of us in our ridings confront, is that we're in fact trying to put a blueprint together which brings ministries together, which brings different sectors of our communities together in a way that is organized, coordinated and forward looking.

I don't think there's a ministry in our government that isn't at this point in time—both because of the very difficult fiscal reality that we face and in fact as a commitment to some of the promises that we made before we were government, when we became government and that we continue to make as we struggle with the challenge of being government each day—trying to make best use of the limited resources that we have so that the people of this province are served in a way that provides them and their children and their children's children with a future that is hopeful and exciting.

In my own community, again, some of the ways that we, in partnership with this government, are coming to terms with some of the challenges that face us are, for example, what we call a round table initiative, where we have pulled together all of the leading politicians in the community around the development of a strategic plan. We developed that strategic plan over a period of a year, and then we shared that plan with the senior levels of government.

I have to say that I stand here proudly today to say that our government has responded in every instance that it was invited to in several different ways. We responded, very obviously, by giving of our resources. There's been probably anywhere from \$25 million to \$35 million spent in

Sault Ste Marie in significant ways above and beyond the ordinary or regular flow of health and social services and education money that goes into every community in this province.

The development of a community information and career centre, which wasn't there before this government came to power, is another significant initiative for my community. It pulls together all of the information so that people who have been laid off or who find themselves needing a change in direction re their career or their job track can go and get some help, sit down and talk with some people, explore some possibilities, put together a résumé and move on with their lives. This government, recognizing the good work that this particular organization was doing, decided that it would become the broker for the Jobs Ontario Training program.

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Since its inception a short couple of months ago—I remember the day I went there and announced that they would be the broker—they have begun to develop partnerships with the private sector in a way that now sees our having placed 20 people in some very exciting job opportunities for these folks who were previously on some form of social assistance, with a training component which will allow them not only to work in this job in a creative, productive, self-fulfilling way, but to imagine perhaps some further opportunities for them as they take advantage of a lot of the opportunities that we will bring forward in the next two to three years and then some, as we bring to fruition the blueprint that we in this government are working on so hard together to try and make a reality.

As I said when I first started, I am thankful for the opportunity to have been able to share a few thoughts today with my colleagues and with those folks out there who might be listening and to say that I definitely will not be supporting this motion, because it does not reflect my feeling, my sense of what's going on and in fact is a sorry example, I think, of the kind of negative idea, discussion, suggestion that continually comes from the other side of this House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Further debate?

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): In joining this debate I would like to talk about some of the facts that are confronting Ontarians today. I just want to speak of three which affect not only myself in my riding of Mississauga North but indeed all members. Fact number 1 is that 320,000 jobs have been lost in Ontario, fact number 2 is that there are 595,000 unemployed individuals in this province and fact number 3 is that over one million people today are dependent on welfare.

The NDP government, when confronted with these facts, always has the same answer, and that is that it is the federal government's fault; it is someone else's fault. It is not their fault; it is someone else's. Well, to those 320,000 people who have lost jobs in Ontario, to those 595,000 unemployed individuals in this province and to the over one million people in this province who are now dependent on welfare, that is not good enough.

One aspect of this matter brought forward today is that the government is incapable of managing change. There is absolutely no question that this happens to be the case. Time in and time out we see where this government, when confronted with facts and issues of the day, seeks either to blame someone else or to polarize interests. If you are not with them, if you do not support them, then you must be against them.

The people of Ontario do not want to be put in one camp or another. They do not want to be part of the polarization efforts that this government uses day in and day out. They do not want to be part of this government's incapacity to manage change. The people in this province do want to be part of solutions, to be part of job creation, to be part of a positive message for investment in this province, with new jobs and businesses and where existing businesses can be expanded.

The government does not wish to embark in that area. They do wish to continue this process of polarization, of pitting one against the other, of continuing to say, "If you are not with us, then you must be against us." That is just not good enough for the people of this province. The people of this province demand, let alone expect, better government. They do not expect a government that will, whatever the challenge of the day happens to be, point to the federal government or point to some employment rate in Mexico, or point to what is happening in Europe. They expect and demand a government to deal with the issues at hand and to stop this polarization of interests.

We have examples day in and day out as to how this government is seeking to polarize and in fact erode the confidence of people in this province. I don't have to look far. We just finished a question period today about the Piper affair, and what is that? That is an individual in the Premier's office—the highest, closest confidant of the Premier—using information to smear a resident of this province. That is something which sends out a message of polarization, of dissension, of erosion in this province. It does not stand as an example of a province that can meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, but it is an example of a government which is seeking to divide, which is seeking to polarize, which is seeking to run roughshod over the rights of individuals in this province.

It sends out a message not just to the people within this province but to many outside this province: to those who listen to what goes on here, to those who may have some dollars to invest. There's a great competition for investment dollars in this world. That government which sends out a message of positive climate, of working with people, will get those investment dollars. It is no mystery that this government is lagging far behind and continues to fall far behind. It continues to fall far behind because we have examples of the Piper affair; we have examples of the individual's interests being run roughshod over, where we have a government which, notwithstanding the issues—the 500,000-odd people who have lost jobs, the over one million people who are on welfare, who need help, need assistance, need cooperation, do not get that from this government.

We just last year, almost to the day, had the incident of the Minister of Northern Development. There was an individual in this province—my goodness, there was a doctor in this province—who did not agree with the actions of the government. We had an example of a minister of the crown taking that doctor to task and slandering that doctor. We had an example where the minister took a lie detector test to prove she was not telling the truth. That, to me, sends out a message as to how this government deals with and manages the issues of the day. Do they do it in a cooperative, consultative manner or do they do this in a way which divides, which erodes, which tears people apart, which rips apart a team working together?

It is clear that this government is intent on polarizing interests. Again, that speaks to whether this government is capable of managing change, whether this government is capable of putting some of those 320,000 jobs that have been lost in a replacement position. Can they replace those jobs? Can they put some of those almost 600,000 unemployed people back to work? Can they take some of those over one million people on welfare off of welfare, and can they do it in a way, in a spirit, in a manner which is not divisive, not polarizing? But no, we have the Piper affair. No, we have the Minister of Northern Development's affair of just a year ago.

And it is not just that. We have the Bill 40 matter. Let's not forget that the first cabinet document that was leaked out spoke of how this government was intent on neutralizing the opposition, how this government was intent on running a public relations campaign which was devised to neutralize those who had the audacity to speak against Bill 40, the changes to the Labour Relations Act.

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It is those examples which we see on this side of the House day in and day out which clearly indicate, at a time when it is absolutely necessary, that this government, under the leadership of the Premier, is incapable of meeting the issues of the day and is incapable of replacing some of those 320,000 jobs that have been lost. I speak from my vantage as the member for Mississauga North, and I have before me from the office of the labour adjustment of the Ministry of Labour validation that many of those jobs have been lost in the Mississauga area.

The Mississauga area, the region of Peel and areas throughout this province demand a government that looks to work together with people. It does not want a government that is divisive, that polarizes and that runs roughshod over the rights of individuals. It does not want a government that could mastermind the Piper affair. It does not want a government which does not see anything wrong with the actions of the Minister of Northern Development in smearing a doctor in good standing in this province. It does not want a government which, day in and day out, tries to sweep under the rug the goings-on at Ontario Hydro and the firing of Mr Holt. It does not want a government that walks away from those issues. It does not want a government which, no matter what the problem is, seeks to blame someone else. It wants a government which can work and respect the rights of individuals in this province.

This government, with the examples we see, is totally incapable of doing that. It is the result of its inaction, its incapability of working with people, its penchant for running over the rights of individuals that drives businesses out of this province, that drives investment to other jurisdictions, that causes job loss and that puts people on welfare. It is because of the actions of this government that those people suffer.

In that respect, I speak in favour of this motion, I speak in favour of the matter brought forward and I speak in favour of the many people in this province who find great fault with the actions of this government in dealing with the individuals in this province.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I too want to take a few minutes to participate in this debate. Firstly, I will tell you I will be supporting this motion, I guess to no one's great surprise. However, I want to try to provide some solutions for the government and I think that's important, because it's pretty easy to be negative.

I come from a part of the province, the far southeastern section, that's been tremendously hard hit by the economic downturn in this province. I'll start with a cheesemaker, St Albert, Ontario, well known for its cheese curd.

Would you believe that the Ministry of Health is now trying to tell these people—and they have charged them; not just trying to tell them. They have charged them because they do not refrigerate these cheese curds immediately after manufacturing them, which would actually destroy the market, because cheese curds were made to be eaten without refrigeration and fresh. Squeakiness is there, and that's what brings people to purchase these cheese curds.

St Albert, a farmer-owned co-op, employs 55 people. Along with other cheesemakers throughout Ontario—Ault Foods, for example, does sell fresh cheese curd at its Cheese House on Highway 31 south of Winchester—it's bringing people from the United States and from other provinces.

What will happen if indeed the Ministry of Health forces St Albert and other cheesemakers similar to this, when selling fresh cheese curd, to refrigerate? They will simply lose that market and it will go across the river to the province of Quebec. Quebec knows how to produce cheese and how to make it and it does not have this kind of law forcing against what the consumer wants.

You may know, Mr Speaker, that our dairy farmers' manufacturing milk quotas are being reduced 3%, 4%, 5% and 6% a year. This is a niche market. This is a specialty product and it is selling, but the government wants to interfere and wants to prevent this from occurring. So I will be sending the Minister of Health these cheese curds, if I can get a page, to seat number 8, and I guarantee the good minister will not get sick.

Secondly, in regard to the city of Cornwall and surrounding area, I proudly represent the surrounding area to the city of Cornwall. We've had a loss in the last three years of 2,600 jobs, a net loss of 2,600 jobs. One of the

most recent ones was Cordel, which closed down officially the day after Bill 40 received third reading and royal assent.

The government was cheering and rejoicing tremendously with the royal assent to Bill 40. I'll tell you, the employees at Cordel and Cordel itself announced its closure of 360 jobs the very next day. So quite obviously we need to look—

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): Why was that, Noble?

Mr Villeneuve: Simply because there were many capital renovations to be made and they did not see an economic climate conducive to continuing. This was a company that was there for 68 years. You may have all sorts of excuses why they closed, but I'll tell you, we must remain competitive and this was a company that was there for 68 years.

Mr Hope: One is called federal economic policies.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): What are you going to do about it?

Mr Hope: You never did anything about it.

Mr Mahoney: You're the government. What are you going to do about it?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Villeneuve: So 2,600 net lost jobs in eastern Ontario, the area I represent, and the city of Cornwall. The minister, Mr Philip, was there about 10 days ago and the city of Cornwall made a very good presentation. Cornwall cannot begin to heal its economic wounds and restore economic prosperity until senior levels of government enact immediate and effective policies to encourage new business growth. There's a clear message there. This comes from the city of Cornwall, and I could go on and on.

The city of Cornwall and the surrounding area that I represent is in desperate need of assistance: 37% of the families are on some sort of social assistance program. The unemployment rate is in excess of 20% and yet we have the government interfering, the Ministry of Health trying to possibly close down or hamper the operation of successful businesses. It's absolutely terrible.

The situation is deplorable and it's catastrophic. Ontario must be willing to compete internationally for new investment and development projects. I do not believe that Bill 40 is conducive to that. So remember, the city of Cornwall and surrounding area: 2,600 lost jobs.

I had a meeting with Kraft General Foods on Friday, with the municipality of Osnabruck. This is one that's most interesting because in this one the Ministry of the Environment is both the angel and the devil. As an angel, they have told Kraft Foods that it cannot continue the emissions past 1994. Kraft Foods has gone to its head office in Chicago and obtained the \$5 million plus to do its share of cleaning up the problem that it has been charged with by the Ministry of the Environment. What we have now is the Ministry of the Environment saying, "We don't have any funding." What will occur here is Kraft General Foods coming in with about \$5 million to enhance this project.

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I was at the very first meeting, where the Ministry of the Environment encouraged the municipality to go jointly with Kraft General Foods to provide a solution to the effluent problem. Everything went on well until Kraft Foods is now ready to meet the demand by the Ministry of the Environment that it clean up its emissions by 1994. But the Ministry of the Environment says, "Oh, well, you have to meet it by 1994, but we can't give you any sort of promise that we will meet our commitment." The Ministry of the Environment is forcing this on Kraft Foods; Kraft Foods has got the money and it's spent a lot of money in the last few years to meet the requirements of the Ministry of the Environment.

If this government is willing to work with private corporations, this is a prime example, an example the likes of which you won't find anywhere else. Indeed, the total cost will be somewhere in the area of \$5 million to the Ministry of the Environment, Kraft General Foods will be putting in \$4.2 million and the municipality will be putting in \$1.3 million, for a total cost of \$10.8 million. A perfect example, but the government is now backing off on its promise.

I was there initially, and the promise was made and renewed on a number of occasions. All we need is assurance that the government will indeed meet its commitment to provide its share of the financing. The ripple effect will be a cogeneration plant providing electricity and, hopefully, an ethanol production plant. Heaven knows, if we had ethanol production in this year, where 50% of our crop is very poor-quality corn which could be transformed into ethanol, we would have a solution to the half of the corn crop in Ontario that has no home and no viable market right now.

In conclusion, I am attempting to provide this government with some solutions to creating employment in the area of Ontario that I know is the most seriously hit by the economic downturn.

There is another project, Minister of the Environment, in my own municipality, where we have a developer ready to come in with 125 new homes. The Ministry of the Environment is saying, "We can't promise you any funding for this year or next year or whenever." It's an amazing situation. The Ministry of the Environment has agreed and provided funding to a point; then you get to where the real action occurs and it backs off.

Eastern Ontario needs this kind of development, eastern Ontario needs help. These kinds of developments will create a ripple effect throughout the entire community and they will create jobs. The economy is suffering terribly in eastern Ontario and probably, if the truth were known, it's the most seriously depressed area of anywhere in this province.

I rest my case. I have provided some solutions, and if the government wants to speak to me about further describing or assisting them, I'm ready, willing and able.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I too would like to start off my comments today by saying that I cannot support this motion, because I know this government has spent the last two years trying to solve the jobs issue, something our federal government still has not come

to grips with. As someone who has worked as a labour activist, I am aware of the cutbacks to the unemployment insurance plan and the massive deficiencies of the training options which were supposed to be there.

The federal government has not delivered, absolutely not delivered. It has left laid-off workers across Canada wondering what they are going to do once their UI ran out. Workers do not want to go on welfare, but that is the only option the federal government has given thousands of laid-off workers.

This government has taken a different tack. It has created a range of programs that are interlinked to ensure that Ontario's economy is well positioned for the recovery. OTAB, or the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, is a comprehensive planning tool to look at what this province needs to respond to training and adjustment concerns. Many understand what training means, but may not realize that adjustment means responding to the needs of workers who have been displaced by the downturn in the economy, workers who have been at a particular job for 25 years and then find themselves laid off. They too need retraining for real jobs, the jobs for the immediate and the far future. Those adjustment programs that already exist have had phenomenal success, seeing workers who have participated in the program placed in jobs, no matter what their age.

Bill 40 has come under the scrutiny of the opposition. Let me say that the amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act are part and parcel of the retraining agenda for this province.

I was born in Europe of parents who both have journeyman papers. Let me just repeat that. Both my parents, my father and my mother, went through apprenticeships. The relationship between the workforce and management in most European countries is such that the planning for training of apprentices can take place. This has not been the case in Ontario. Very few companies truly train apprentices, but OTAB and a more cooperative labour relations climate will allow the province to do what Europe has done for a very long time.

I am very much in support of the Jobs Ontario Training fund because it is employer-driven; it sets out to meet the training needs of that specific employer. This isn't a make-work project that will not provide any skills or long-term employment to that worker.

In a recent conversation with Bea Clark, the director of the Jobs Ontario Training fund in Niagara, I was made aware once again of how supportive this program is to people who have not been in the workforce for some time. Remedial training is being provided to those people in the program who need help with basic reading and numeracy skills. This program is sensitive to the needs of workers and to the needs of employers.

I have heard a lot of the opposition rhetoric here this afternoon. What are they saying, that this government is not doing enough? No one on this side of the House would say that we would not like to do more. The truth of the matter is that the Liberal government did not put in place any actions or programs to head off the recession. Their staff told them about it.

During the summer of 1990, the official opposition knew it had to do something about the downturn in the economy. Many of us remember the comments about the balanced budget. We all know that an election call is no solution to the recession and job loss.

This government is meeting the challenge and has set the agenda for the federal government by showing courage and resolve to implement innovative programs. This government remains firm in its resolve to be fair to the disadvantaged. Our commitment to the vulnerable is ongoing, even in these difficult times. I will not be supporting this motion.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Mahoney: It's interesting how times change. People have suggested that the reason the NDP is in power today is because the former Premier, my former leader, called an early election after three years. There was a lot of outcry against that. I wonder what the reaction would be if we were to have an early election now. It's really interesting to read the same journalists who said that it was a mistake and yet, in the weekend paper and today, are calling for a return to the polls. After only two years under Bob Rae and the NDP, the general consensus in the community and in the media is that it's time to go back to the polls. That's more than just an early election; that's a realization that it's only taken two years for it to sink in and come home to roost what a serious disaster has occurred in this province.

One of the interesting aspects of this resolution put forward by the leader of the third party is that it calls for some real action on the part of the government. It calls for them to address the problem in Transitions. It puts out a suggestion that they review job training initiatives, that they redirect certain resources, that they make some changes to Bill 40, that they do a number of things.

The problem with this government is that it hasn't got time to do any of this, I say to the leader of the third party. All they're doing is spending all their time in damage control, all their time dealing with scandals, one heaped upon the other, so that there's no possible freedom or no ability for their cabinet, if the ability existed there in a real way, to deal with this.

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What is their answer? Their answer is simply to blame the problems they're facing on somebody else. As my colleague the member for Mississauga North pointed out, when they're asked a question with regard to the job loss, they point to free trade. I didn't hear all the criticisms about NAFTA that I expected to hear today, about how this party believes that what we should be doing is simply building walls around the province and pretending that we can survive in a global economy. By trading with ourselves? I'm not sure. Maybe just trading interprovincially within Canada? We should ignore foreign markets? We should ignore the fact that there are more skilled workers coming out of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, from which the Premier just returned?

Does he come in the House and make an announcement? No, he says he's going to make it tomorrow. The only announcement we heard in the two weeks, other

than the resignation of a cabinet minister and the resignation of one of the senior staff people, other than those problems, was the Premier dredging up a two-year-old announcement that was made. When Kubota, the company in Japan that made it, was asked about this \$10-million investment in Ontario, it couldn't understand what the Premier was referring to. They checked their files and they found out that two years ago they actually made the decision to invest the money in the province of Ontario.

So the Premier's over there, I'm sure, enjoying himself, having some sushi and a little wine, he and Arlene are enjoying the culture in that part of the world and he says: "Gosh, we better make an announcement. We can't go back empty-handed. Why don't we get a hold of the spin doctors and see what they can figure out that we could announce?"

So they do, and I wouldn't be surprised if it was Mr Piper himself who put together the announcement, while the Premier was off in Asia, about a new \$10-million announcement, not realizing that indeed it was two years old.

That's pretty sad. And it only goes to underline and underscore the basic dishonesty that we're seeing with the government, the fact that their spin doctors have to put out and resort to character assassination and to attacks. This is something that is inherent, Mr Speaker, I say with respect to you, sir, in the NDP. It's a philosophy that says, "If you don't like something we're doing, we're going to do it anyway and we're going to find a way to discredit you."

I know, having been the subject of personal attacks by the now Premier and by the spin doctors of the day when we were in government, that there is no one this government would not attempt to run over to make its point, including members of its own caucus, I say to the former Sunshine Boy.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): See the tire tracks.

Mr Mahoney: Tire tracks are right. They did a wheelie right on your nose. I thought you hadn't washed. Clearly, they would run over and expel anyone. I see the member in the back who was expelled from caucus right off the bat, one of the first problems that this government ran into when it came into power. You have a mentality that says, "If you get in our way, we're going to bury you." That's exactly what they attempted to do to Ms Judi Harris.

Let's give the Premier the benefit of the doubt and assume he didn't know about it. But you can't tell me that it wasn't discussed in that office. You can't tell me that there's not a whole lot more to this than what we've seen so far. I think the information or the suggestion in one of the reports today was that this can of worms is only half open. I would say that this is true.

The problem you have with respect to Mr Harris's resolution is, when can the government get down to dealing with this? I have some information here from a small business person from the Oakville area, a former Mississauga resident who was a neighbour of mine and who has provided me with some material from the Ontario Ministry of Labour dealing with Transitions. That, you'll recognize, is the program for older workers, when people over 45

years old lose their jobs and need to find a way to get retrained to get into the workforce.

As members will know, today unemployment insurance generally runs for about one year. Then those workers, if they're still drawing UI benefits, have to resort to welfare or to personal savings or to some other source. Perhaps they have to sell their home. Perhaps they have to completely refinance. Perhaps they have to say to their kids, "Sorry, I can't afford to keep sending you to university." They have to make hard-nosed adjustments because they have lost their job. This government's answer is, "It's not our fault."

Let's assume that we're prepared to say—I'm not—but that it's not their fault. Who really cares whose fault it is when that individual is losing his family home, when that individual has to turn to his kids and say, "Dad has not only not got a job; I don't have the skills and I don't have the ability to get another job because I don't have the training that I need"? So he applies to Transitions.

These are memos. If I could just tell you, this is a memo from the Ontario Ministry of Labour and it's out to all the trainers in the program. It says:

"As you know, Transitions processing delays vary according to program activity. At the present time, training proposals received today should enable clients to begin training in early March."

This is in November. Now listen to this:

"Clients who apply for entry to the Transitions program should expect to be able to get into training in nine months' time."

They've got a one-year unemployment insurance benefit period and they're told that if they apply for training the day after they get fired or lose their job or get laid off, they have to wait nine months through the Transitions program to get into training.

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: Well, I didn't make it up. It's on your government's ministry letterhead.

This is incredible. We would obviously understand that when they lose the job they wouldn't apply immediately. There would be a certain period of shock, of disbelief. There would be a certain period of time—

Mr Stockwell: That's a best-case scenario.

Mr Mahoney: That's right. That is a perfect case. A best-case scenario is nine months. More likely, they would sort of be confused and they would stumble around for a little bit. They would take a couple of months until they perhaps found out that Transitions was available to them. So the reality is that they're going to be asked to go to training school without any money.

Would it not make more sense—if there's one thing you could do instead of standing up and blaming the former Liberal government or the former Tory government or the current Tory government in Ottawa, you could make Transitions mean what it says. It means, "We're going to assist you in a transition period from your state of unemployment to a state of full training."

As the former Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology says, they'll simply become an unemployed but

well-trained, highly skilled, unemployed worker. So at the time, as you assist in the transitions, you've got to start creating jobs. You can't do that, I submit, when you've got people who are spending their time trying to discredit people, who are being dishonest instead of concentrating on getting this province back to work.

I'm going to support this motion and I, along with my colleagues, call for this government to get Ontario back to work and get people employed again.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Let me say, first of all, that I regret I wasn't here for all the speeches today. I had a couple of other meetings to attend, but I want to say I appreciate my support, for all those supporting the resolution.

I understand there were a few members of the NDP who do not plan to support the resolution. That I really regret, because here is a resolution that states the facts as they've been reported over and over again by independent third parties: the numbers of jobs that have been lost, the number of unemployed and the number of people on welfare.

These are the facts. We've pointed out some of the programs that aren't working, but we've just used the facts as provided by treasury officials, for instance, or the Ministry of Skills Development, on the Ontario training fund.

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But more important than that, after having stated the facts, those that have been put out by Statistics Canada or by the government itself—widely reported, widely known in Ontario—we simply call on the government, as we are wont to do in this party, with positive proposals of our own. We're saying: "Look, here's something you're doing that's not working. Perhaps you could benefit from 42 years of sound government in this province." When there were recessions in the past we found cutting taxes, for example, in the automobile industry had the effect of more people buying cars, encouraging consumers to purchase, which put auto workers and the steel industry back to work in this province.

Here we are giving you positive suggestions that, instead of some of these programs that are causing the deficit to balloon and taxes to go up and they're not working, as has been reported by your own staff, your own ministries, acknowledged by your own Treasurer and your own cabinet, we are putting forward positive suggestions and saying: "We suggest you try this: tried, proven, worked well all across the world and has worked here in Ontario."

I am always intrigued as well, because some of the NDP have applauded the victory of Bill Clinton in the United States and it surprised me a little bit, because here's a guy who is obviously a progressive conservative. He has campaigned on tax cuts for the middle class, a key part of his economic platform. The second key aspect of his economic platform for jobs was to tie welfare payments to training and retraining and assistance, to apprenticeship, to work experience. So we call for that as well: Tie social assistance payments more directly to job training.

I would have thought that if you believed Bill Clinton's approach was appropriate—I did, because he's obviously

copied New Directions 102, taken it to the States—the documents we put out—and found that it sold just as well in the United States as it would here. He talked about training, talked about retraining, talked about education, talked about managing change—all the things we've been trying to tell you.

There has been a tradition in the politics of the past that you and your cabinet and your caucus and your Premier still practise. That's the politics whereby: "We'll set out the direction, we'll set out what everybody will do, and everybody else is wrong. We want our majority members of our committee, the majority of our members, to go to committee and just defend the cabinet minister, right or wrong—go ahead and do that."

With the exception of the member for Welland-Thorold, who, I publicly acknowledge, said, "Enough of that politics of the past; let's have a little independence, state what we believe as individuals," the rest of you have seen fit to defend these policies that are so disastrous. So I am disappointed today. I thought after the Clinton win, after this progressive conservative victory in the United States, that some of those things he is talking about bringing to the United States to get the economy moving again would have been, in fact, attractive to the members of the NDP. So I brought them forward once again to ask for their support.

Let me also publicly say, since I've acknowledged the member for Welland-Thorold—I didn't hear him speak on this resolution; we'll see how he votes, we'll see whether he really means it and how he votes on this resolution when the time comes. But let me thank the members from the Liberal Party who came forward unselfishly with their support for our resolution today and the member for Mississauga West, I believe—he's left—who did say he liked everything in the resolution. So far the Liberal Party has just had a new leader. It takes five or six years before you overcome a loss like they had, and we found that out in our party too. They've had difficulty coming up with concrete proposals as alternatives for the government, so I thank them for supporting—it's not their fault. We were in the same position.

I can remember after we lost and the denial that a party goes through and I can see it in the Liberal Party: "Well, it wasn't our fault. Oh, the voters made a mistake; oh, it was Peterson's fault; oh, it was that person; oh, Goldfarb and his silly old polling." You point the fingers, you see. We went through that: "It was Miller; it was Davis; we should have done this; we should have done that." I understand that and it takes several years before you get out of that and say: "Hey, we lost. It doesn't matter why. Let's now put forward some concrete, positive proposals, something we believe in."

While the Liberals are taking five, six or 10 years to do that, I want to say to their individual members that I appreciate their support for the concrete proposals we have put forward today. They're contained in New Directions, volume 1, on the economy, in New Directions, volume 2, and a couple of other areas.

I understand the chagrin, if you like, from the members of the NDP over the weekend. Mel Hurtig is finally going

to bring a party that can articulate the views of the left and the labour movement, wanting to bring the barriers up, anti-free-trade and "Let's treat Canada and Ontario as an island." Those policies are not gaining much favour. They've been abandoned all over the world, in eastern Europe, in Europe and now in North America.

There is some legitimacy in the sense that some people do believe that and still wish to espouse these views. Mel Hurtig said the NDP can't even espouse the views, even though only 5%, 10%, 15% or 20% of the people believe in them or give them any shrift or credibility. I understand why the members of the New Democratic Party are a little concerned that there's somebody else taking over their turf. When you divide 15% two ways, it doesn't leave much: about 7.5%. I understand the concerns that may be there.

Many of my colleagues have expressed their concerns about northern Ontario, about eastern Ontario, about our farmers, about rural Ontario and small town Ontario; all the examples you have of other provinces that are doing things, of other governments in the past that have done things to give a little help during this very difficult time.

There are ways to kick-start the economy. You can cut taxes. We've seen them cut before by previous governments during difficult times, for example, during that recession in the early 1980s when the federal Liberal Party had brought this country to the brink of its knees and it was up to Ontario to lead this country out of the recession. Of course, we did in the early 1980s, in spite of the Liberals in Ottawa. We led this country out of recession.

The federal policies, no matter how bad they were, couldn't hold Canada down, because Ontario put Canada back to work with tax cuts. We cut taxes in the automobile industry and we put the workers back to work in automobile factories, in auto parts factories. We put them back to work in the steel mills. We had tax breaks as well in the housing industry and in the furniture industry, and we put Canadians back to work. We got consumers spending again. Housing sales boomed, builders built, bricklayers laid bricks, carpenters did carpentry, and it can happen again.

This party is so bereft of ideas that it spends all its time pointing the finger at Ottawa. When we were in government during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s we didn't point the finger at Ottawa. We didn't blame Ottawa, even though they were terrible and making a mess of the economy. We got down to work. We did what we could do here in the province of Ontario, through the BILD program, when we were building Ontario once again. We built bridges, we built roads, we built industries, we built factories. We got Ontarians working again. This province and this country got their confidence restored and they got back to work again.

Contrast how this province came out of the recession in the 1980s or any other time when we've had difficult downturns, either worldwide or North America-wide or Canada-wide, to what's happening today, the policies that have meant 320,000 jobs lost in Ontario, almost 600,000 unemployed in this province, the policies that are driving

investment out of this province, discouraging consumers from buying.

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More important than all that, the net effect of it all is that our workers are hurting, our families are hurting.

[Interruption]

Mr Harris: There's nothing in that briefcase but a bunch of old documents we're not interested in anyway. If you'd move it out of the aisle, that wouldn't happen. Are those some of Piper's documents that he hasn't got all out of the building yet? We've still only got some this far.

When I talk to families, when I talk to workers—I call them workers whether they're working or not, because they want to work—they are hurting. Our agriculture industry, rural Ontario, has had absolutely no help from this government: cutbacks in the spending on the agricultural budget, no understanding of the problems that they are facing with massive subsidies in other countries.

The BILD program in the early 1980s began a program of food processing, of encouraging and making assistance available to farmers to help themselves. The one thing we've heard from this government is to shut down that cheese factory in eastern Ontario. There they were, working together cooperatively to help themselves to process that dairy product into cheese curds, a desirable product, and we see you shutting factories down, we see you shutting plants down, even in rural Ontario, where they are hurting so much as well.

It's a sad day when we here in the opposition will come forward, as no opposition party has in the past, giving you the ideas, giving you the suggestions, giving you some of the time-tested programs that have worked in the past to get Ontarians back to work and you reject them all for your tried and failed policies, as well as the number of innovative new proposals to manage change, to get prepared for the jobs of the future.

We know there are some jobs that are being lost, no question about that. We know that as each decade goes by there will be jobs that were appropriate for that decade and then they will no longer be appropriate and those plants will shut down. We understand that. But the world is passing us by. The jobs of the future, the new jobs, the ones requiring the new technology, the computer systems, the new machinery and the training and the skills required for that, they're passing us by and that didn't used to be.

This province was "Yours To Discover" for all those decades because we had sound, good government with balanced policies. We had the kind of government where Canadians all across Canada discovered Ontario. They wanted to come here; they wanted to invest here. As well, we had the kind of government in Ontario, Canada, which told the world, from Europe, the Pacific Rim, India, Pakistan, if you wanted a better life, if you wanted hope, if you wanted opportunity, if you wanted a chance to work hard and succeed and get ahead, Ontario was "Yours To Discover."

It wasn't perfect. Somebody can find something in those 42 years—one, maybe two things, maybe even more—that the government made a mistake on and went

wrong. It wasn't perfect; I acknowledge that. But I'm going to tell you, it was "Yours To Discover," and it is not today.

I am trying to give the New Democratic Party the ideas, the sound management proposals, the suggestions, on how we can get Ontario back to work. If you won't take them, I can't force you to, but I can keep offering them; I can keep putting them forward. There will be a day, maybe sooner rather than later the way the Premier's office is going, when you will pay a price for not listening to the majority of Ontarians who are hurting and want to get back to work and believe your policies are in the wrong direction.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): Good style, good delivery.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Mr Harris has moved opposition day motion number 4:

Whereas 320,000 jobs have been lost in Ontario; and

Whereas there are 595,000 unemployed individuals in this province; and

Whereas over one million persons are dependent on welfare; and

Whereas the NDP's Jobs Ontario Training fund has proven to be nothing more than a public relations scam; and

Whereas the NDP government's flagship program for older workers, Transitions, is badly backlogged to the point where participants have to wait more than 34 weeks to have an application approved; and

Whereas the NDP government is incapable of managing change and has failed to prepare Ontario for job creation; and

Whereas our children need to have the skills necessary to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing workplace;

Therefore, this House calls upon the NDP government to immediately:

(a) review the job training initiatives that are outlined in the Progressive Conservative caucus's documents New Directions Vol I: A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Vol II: A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario;

(b) redirect the resources that have been allocated to implementing its flawed Ontario Training and Adjustment Board to improving delivery of the Transitions program;

(c) repeal the Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment (Bill 40) as a means of attracting new job-creating investment to Ontario;

(d) tie social assistance payments more directly to job training.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members: a five-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1757 to 1802.

The Acting Speaker: Will the members please take their seats.

Mr Harris has moved opposition day motion number 4. All those in favour of the motion will please rise and be recognized by the table.

Ayes

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Chiarelli, Conway, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Daigeler, Elston, Eves, Harnick, Harris, Jackson, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, McClelland, McLean, Miclash, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Runciman, Sterling, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

The Acting Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please rise and be recognized by the table.

Nays

Abel, Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Farnan, Ferguson, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessenger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 34, the nays 63.

The Acting Speaker: As the ayes are 34 and the nays are 63, I declare the motion lost.

It now being past 6 of the clock, the House does now rise until tomorrow at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1805.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 24 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 24 novembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 24 November 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

SEWAGE AND WATER TREATMENT

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): Today my concerns are directed to the mismanagement which this government finds itself faced with on a daily basis. I'm not talking about the Piper affair, along with the many others; you know I could go on and on. What I'm talking about is the extension of sewer and water services in the town of Keewatin, a community in my riding.

Thus far, the Ministry of Northern Development has committed \$600,000 to this project, the municipal board has okayed the financial structure, the certificate of approval is in place, the Ministry of Transportation has given permits for highway crossings, the tender has been let and the contractor is ready to go. As well, residents have agreed to put their share into the development and the town has agreed to pilot the project, but we have the Ministry of the Environment holding the entire thing up.

In speaking with the Minister of the Environment only yesterday, she too found it interesting that the Ministry of Northern Development would be playing a lead role in this, one which is normally taken by her ministry, as the project reflects directly on the environment. We must note that many of the properties that are involved are fronting on the Winnipeg River.

Every minister across the way has talked about the creation of jobs: jobs, jobs, jobs. We hear the word on a daily basis, but here we have a prime example where the words are not matching the actions.

I call upon the Minister of Northern Development, the Minister of the Environment and the Treasurer to come together on this most important development so that these jobs can be saved in northwestern Ontario. It could be a long winter of unemployment for those contractors involved, and I again ask the ministers involved to review their procedures involving this particular project in the town of Keewatin.

ONTARIO HYDRO SERVICE

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Last weekend, parts of Owen Sound and the Bruce Peninsula were without hydro power for long periods of time. Unfortunately, power outages of this sort are becoming a part of life for many local municipalities and businesses.

The regional office in Owen Sound has indicated that the problem is defective insulators on their 44,000-volt line servicing the area.

After several major outages last March which took both the AM and FM stations in Owen Sound off the air for many hours, Bayshore Broadcasting raised the matter with the then Hydro chair, Marc Eliesen. These stations have an agreement with Hydro to notify the public in the

event of an emergency at the Bruce nuclear plant, but how can station managers fulfil this responsibility if there is no power?

Many businesses are being affected by these shortages. Last Saturday, Burger King was without power for over an hour and had to refuse business at the front door while throwing away food at the back. The Georgian Club and Carruthers Insurance have written just today about similar difficulties. The mayor of Port Elgin says his community cannot attract industry because it is accepted that hydro power is so unreliable.

In view of Hydro's poor record, the people in my area want to know whether or not there is a plan to deal with the problem of these insulators and whether funding has been committed to implement it.

Local Hydro managers and crews are doing their best to cope with these outages, but the solution does not lie with them. It lies with the minister and with the head office at Hydro. My constituents pay the same rates as everyone else in this province, yet they are receiving an inferior product. They deserve better.

DENNY PEDRI

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): Today I bring to the Legislature the heroic efforts performed by an individual in Windsor on the weekend. Twenty-one-year-old University of Windsor student Denny Pedri acted out a part which many would not have accepted or embraced. First he called 911, then he went into action.

On early Sunday morning at 8:08, in cold weather and wearing only a bathrobe, Denny responded to the cries for help at a home in his neighbourhood, at 241 Oak Street. Six people screamed for help, four adults and two children: five people were on the roof of that house. Denny Pedri raced to the home. He dashed through thick smoke and choking fire. Not yet aware of the dangers ahead, Denny proceeded to seek out the cries, and among those he heard were those from an 11-year-old boy he found cowering in a corner, already experiencing breathing difficulties.

These scenes are those that seem to appear on national television programs that we think could never happen to us. Today, Denny's capturing much attention in Windsor for what he did. I'd like to add to that valour, so this afternoon I will call the chief of the fire department and urge them to give Denny a medal for bravery.

I know that the entire Legislature will want to salute a very brave and caring Denny Pedri for saving the life of a young man in Windsor on a cold and frosty Sunday morning.

NORTHERN ONTARIO FILM LIBRARY

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I'd like to bring to the attention of the members of the House the grave concern I have in regard to the fate of the Northern Ontario Film Library. As members will know, over the years the Ministry of Education has comprised a collection of films,

but because of financial restraints—and this is especially so in northern Ontario—two years ago had to give the maintenance of that up to the North Shore Board of Education in Blind River, and now it's housed in Elliot Lake. This school board, because of a great decline in usage of these films, because of a \$7 fee—and I'm glad the Minister of Education is here today and I can talk to him about this—has found an 85% decline in the usage of the Northern Ontario Film Library.

This board is now discussing whether it is going to have to disperse this film collection. I'd like to bring to the members' attention that this is a film collection of 14,000 films that is valued at \$4 million. This would be a real tragedy to northern education because, more than any other region, we have less access to real-life situations, where we would rely upon a film library for educative needs for our children in northern Ontario.

I would certainly ask the Minister of Education to consider, whether it's in the general legislative grants for northern Ontario boards or whatever, to try to find the \$42,000—and that's all it would take—to maintain the collection and disperse the collection throughout northern Ontario schools each year so that our children would have access to a first-class film library.

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GET READY FOR SNOWMOBILING WEEK

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the first-ever Get Ready for Snowmobiling Week, which was launched yesterday in the province of Ontario. Get Ready for Snowmobiling Week offers Ontario residents the opportunity to heighten awareness of the benefits of snowmobiling as a recreational pursuit and economic stimulus.

Total snowmobiling revenues are expected to exceed \$300 million in Ontario this winter, and it is anticipated that Mother Nature will be a friendly ally in this financial/recreational endeavour. With the Farmers' Almanac predicting bountiful snow conditions, the winter of 1993 is expected to rewrite the record book for the number of Ontarians snowmobiling in one season and the dollars these riders will drive back into the provincial economy.

In my place of residence, Wasaga Beach, the Wasaga Snowmobiling Club had 575 members last year. The club, headed by Don Reese, is looking forward to another successful season, with many important events planned. These include participation in the Santa Claus Parade December 5, a family fun day on January 16 and a poker run on January 30.

In Wasaga Beach, the only obstacle in the way of another banner season for the Wasaga Snowmobiling Club is the Ministry of Natural Resources. The ministry has stubbornly refused to allow snowmobilers to ride on trails located on crown lands.

Snowmobiling provides family fun and is good for the economy. I urge all members of this Legislature to reflect this week and to ensure a safe and pleasurable winter season for the thousands of snowmobile enthusiasts across Ontario.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East): "In America, a Rebirth of Hope" is the headline in this week's Manchester Guardian Weekly. In the United States, the new administration seems prepared to attack the problems produced by 12 years of free market dogma.

Whether you talk to Americans or read their media, it is clear that at the heart of the desire for change and reform is health care. As we have known here for years, universal medicare is the most popular program and the one which demonstrates the effectiveness of universality of benefits. You can go anywhere in this province, from University Avenue to remote northern areas, to see all people obtaining a broad range of essential services, undeterred by cost and bureaucratic restraints, at considerably less societal cost and without the terrible risks of being uninsured that we see to the south.

I was shocked and disappointed, though not entirely surprised, when my colleague Dr David Himmelstein of Physicians for a National Health Plan drew to my attention a misleading and distorted article in the US edition of Reader's Digest by an émigré Ontario surgeon, Ian Munro, who tries to discredit our system. The arguments are familiar and specious. To support them is to support illness and suffering.

I want to say to the American politicians and planners, to the employers struggling with high benefit costs, to unions and to unorganized workers, to the Physicians for a National Health Plan, to the American Association of Retired Persons, that we know that universal medicare, and nothing less, works. It's really regrettable that Canadian physicians outside this country choose to mislead and misunderstand the need for universality.

ACADEMIC STREAMING

Mr Charles Beer (York North): To the Minister of Education: Minister, there is a crisis of confidence throughout the educational community regarding the leadership which you and your government are providing. Hardly a day goes by without a statement by a parent, teacher or trustee expressing their grave concern at how this minister is seeking to implement a wide variety of changes.

On November 13, the president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Paula Dunning, stated, "The education of secondary-level students in Ontario will be in chaos if the Ministry of Education proceeds with its plan to force schools to implement destreaming without providing the necessary resources to do so."

The president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Liz Barkley, stated over the weekend, "The minister's proposed changes are ill advised and poorly researched." She then called for the minister's resignation.

The public school trustees called upon the minister to defer the mandatory implementation of destreaming "until an analysis of pilot destreaming projects is conducted and until the ministry provides adequate funding to cover the cost of retraining teachers." These are precisely the specific recommendations made by this Legislature's select committee on education four years ago.

Minister, the crisis in confidence among parents, teachers and trustees will soon lead to chaos. You must convene a special meeting of all the key educational stakeholders to ensure that the changes you are proposing can be implemented in a sane and effective way. The goal, Minister, should be excellence and the best education for our kids. Confidence must be restored.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I'm sure many members are aware that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is holding its annual meeting this week in Toronto. While I'm sure we all wish them the best in their meetings and elections, I also think we should review the farm situation from a financial and economic point of view here in Ontario.

Realized net farm income has been dropping in Ontario every year since 1987. In fact, farm income was higher in this province in 1983 than it was last year or the year before. This government's response has been to ignore agriculture, much the same as the previous Liberals had done: large announcements with nothing behind them.

In fact, if we look at the increases in farm-gate prices for farm products in Ontario, we see that return to farmers has gone up by 1.4% since 1986, six years ago. That 1.4% is a lot less than this government has handed out to its union friends in the public service.

In fact, Ontario's food producers have been forced to absorb a multitude of increased costs of production. For instance, property taxes for farmers have increased 32% since 1986; electricity, 37%; building repair costs, 26%; labour costs, 32%. Farm suppliers have kept seed and fertilizer prices to an 11% increase, while replacement cattle have gone up by 11%.

Agriculture's in trouble. This government must recognize it.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): A point of order?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Yes, sir. Mr Speaker, the honourable member for S-D-G & East Grenville forgot to mention that Brian Mulroney and his Conservative cronies in Ottawa have caused massive problems for agriculture.

The Speaker: I thank the member for his point of interest.

A point of order?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, on a point of order which is just as valid as the one expressed by the member: I want to say to the member I encourage this kind of dialogue and cross-fire from the opposition members.

The Speaker: I appreciate everyone's assistance.

CARVERS' QUILT OF ONTARIO

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I refuse to use my 90 seconds to spread doom and gloom. I have a positive statement.

On October 28, 1992, the Carvers' Quilt of Ontario was presented to the province of Ontario. This unique piece of art was created by woodcarvers from across Ontario to mark the 200th anniversary of representative gov-

ernment in Ontario and to mark Canada's 125th birthday. It's now on display in the Legislature, as you well know.

Today I want to recognize the Brooklin Woodcarvers' Club and the Bowmanville Woodchips Club, both clubs in my riding of Durham East. The Brooklin Woodcarvers' Club contributed two panels to the quilt: the Old Mill, Brooklin, and Parkwood, the R.S. McLaughlin residence in Oshawa. The Bowmanville Woodchips Club also contributed two panels to the quilt: Methodist Church, Bowmanville, 1870, and the Fish Hatchery, Newcastle, 1866.

I want to encourage all members to join with me in thanking the members of both clubs and their respective club presidents, George Austen and the Rev Doug Hall, for their contribution to keeping alive our heritage through the magnificent Carvers' Quilt of Ontario.

PREMIER'S COMMENTS

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise on a point of order under standing order 23(i), which says that a member shall be called to order by the Speaker if he or she imputes false or unavowed motives to another member.

Yesterday, in response to a question by the member for Renfrew North, the Premier characterized the member's stance as "synthetic indignation." In doing so, the Premier attempted to convey the impression that my colleague and those on this side of the House were simulating our disgust at the actions of his friend and key adviser, John Piper, who, it appears, attempted to convey information to a journalist with the sole purpose of smearing a woman who had come forward with allegations against a then member of the Premier's government.

The Premier then went on with his mea culpas on this issue as if he had a personal hold on morality and ethics in this place and those in opposition were only raising these issues for some lower purpose.

Mr Speaker, I'm asking that you require that the Premier withdraw those remarks and that characterization of my colleague, as required under the standing orders, and acknowledge that there is no play-acting here. We are angry. We have reason to be angry with the conduct of this government and the way it has breached the trust of the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Halton Centre, she will know that if there is anything which occurs during question period or indeed at any time during our proceedings which the member finds to not be in order, it's most appropriate to draw it to the Speaker's attention at that time.

I listened carefully to the dialogue, as I always do, and I did not find that there was anything out of order. I must add, of course, that when there are contentious issues, on both sides of the House occasionally the language is not always the most temperate.

But I must say finally that yesterday, despite the situation, members on both sides of the House made quite an effort to deal with the issue in a very calm and reasoned way. However, I do appreciate your bringing it to my attention.

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POINTS OF ORDER

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, I understand your rationale in reply to my colleague. However, I must raise something that does cause us problems in the opposition, and that is the fact that if, during question period, a matter is or appears to be out of order and we stand to interject about the point of order, you have taken the usual habit of penalizing the opposition by letting the clock continue to run, so that if we raise the issue and you even declare a remedy available to us, we have already taken ourselves out of use of some of the clock for the purposes of the point of order.

There were occasions yesterday, Mr Speaker, when, without standing in my place, I did point out to you that various members of the government were heckling my leader as she was putting her questions in a very serious and measured manner to expose the difficulties that the Premier has found himself and his government subject to. While you were unable to call anyone to order specifically, I notice that you did try to isolate the origin of the heckling, which from my vantage point really was the Treasurer.

My problem, sir, is this: If I am to do my job as the opposition House leader, I must interrupt perhaps my leader in her questions or another of my colleagues, perhaps the leader of the third party or some of his colleagues, or indeed even the backbench members of the government party in order to bring to your attention what I believe is out of order.

My concern, sir, is this: If we are to raise them at the moment that they arise—that is, points of order—how can we do it without penalty to our time to question the government? So far, in fact, I think you have not varied from your practice of listening to the points of order, but you are penalizing us by allowing the clock to run down. Can I, Mr Speaker, ask you for a ruling as to how these points are to be handled and whether or not we are to lose time to question the Premier or his ministers during the only short period of time during the day when we have a chance?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce, I don't believe he would want me to break any of the standing orders. The standing orders and the practice are quite clear that points of order must be drawn to the attention of the Speaker at the time when they occur and that, of course, during question period the clock will continue to run.

It is in a sense a moot point in that, regardless of whether it's the Speaker or some other person who interrupts the proceedings, the clock will continue to run. Should I notice anything which is out of order, of course I will deal with it immediately. If I deal with it, then of course I am interrupting the proceedings, and the clock continues to run.

The best caution on this, of course, is if all members would do their utmost to restrain intemperate language and, indeed, I must say to the member for Bruce, my observation is that for the most part, such was the case yesterday. It allowed us to have quite a few questions directed and quite a few responses.

I'm sensitive to the point that the member raises. I know that those 60 minutes are a precious time for the opposition and it's one that should not be interrupted unless it's an extreme situation. It's one that I am very careful to try to protect for the opposition.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY
AND RESPONSES

PREMIER'S VISIT TO ASIA

VISITE DU PREMIER MINISTRE EN ASIE

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): In response to popular demand, I am making a statement with respect to my trip to Asia. I want to report to the House on my recent trip to east Asia. This was my second business trip to Asia in 1992. I visited five countries and jurisdictions, including 11 cities, and attended more than 50 events.

I had meetings with 10 ministers and heads of government, and with more than 50 CEOs and senior executives of some of Asia's largest corporations. These included Taiwan Aerospace, China Steel, Hutchison Whampoa, Wharf Group, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Hyundai Motors, Kia Motors, Sammi Group, Matsushita, Kubota, Kao, Sumitomo, Toyota, Honda and Suzuki.

I met with Asian investors who have this year committed more than \$50 million to new Ontario investment: Jae-il Engineering, Daewang Corp, Kia Corp, Kao Corp, Kubota and Sumitomo.

I also had the opportunity to make specific representations to governments and ministers on behalf of Canadian companies and contractors.

Since 1986, more than \$1 billion in new Asian investment, creating more than 7,000 jobs, has taken place in Ontario. I met with many of the companies involved to encourage new expansion in research and development and production. All of the advice that I have received, both from Canadian businesses in Asia and from our Canadian representatives in these countries, has convinced me that there is no substitute for steady, regular contact with these leading corporations and governments at every level.

I also had the opportunity to discuss new governmental and educational partnerships with Governor Chris Patten of Hong Kong—and I know that many people were here when Governor Patten came to Toronto—and Governor Nakagawa of Osaka, Japan. We shall need to consider together how best we can take advantage of the strong relationships we have already fostered with some of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

In the course of the two-week trip, I met with and spoke to over 1,500 Canadian and Asian business people in 10 addresses to business organizations and Ontario Clubs. Ontario Clubs are groups of Asians who have served our investors in Ontario and who are now returning to Asia and who have very strong feelings and very strong associations with this province.

We made a number of breakthroughs on this visit. I was the first Canadian Premier to visit Taiwan, the first Ontario Premier to visit both Kansai and Nagoya in Japan, as well as Guangzhou and Shenzhen in south China. These

are going to be growing markets into the next century and are among the fastest-growing economies in the world.

I pressed market opening issues, contract bidding transparency and dispute settlement concerns of the Canadian government and of our government, and Canadian business in China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan.

NAFTA was raised at virtually every private event. It remains a serious concern for our existing investors and our prospective partners. I can't overemphasize this point. Some may just treat this as a partisan issue but, believe me, it is a genuine concern being expressed within the Asian business community. We discussed the determination of the Ontario government to defend the interests of our existing investors, as we did successfully in the case of Honda, and our conviction that the future interests of both Asian and Ontario business partners are best served by the early finalization of the GATT.

Support for the Ontario government's initiatives in training, research and development and expenditure control was offered on a number of occasions. Ontario's, and Canada's, reputation remains strong, but it is also clear that we have a lot of work to do, both here and abroad, to build on what we have achieved.

There is a sense in every jurisdiction I visited, both among governments and among Canadians living and working in Asia, that there are many more opportunities for export and investment in Asia than are currently being pursued. It is also clear that competition for direct Asian investment in North America will continue to be intense. There are advantages to investing in Ontario which have to be marketed in an aggressive way, and I can tell the House that this will be even more necessary in the unfortunate event, in our view, of the ratification of NAFTA.

All Ontarians have to embrace the simple reality that our common future depends on our ability to attract investment from home and abroad, to sell our goods on freer domestic and world markets, and on how we measure up against what others are doing in education, in training, in research and development, in investments in environmental improvements and in the quality of life in the province.

We are an international province living and working in a world that is getting smaller all the time. The success of our friends in the world is the product of neither a miracle nor a conspiracy. It follows from their commitment to the values that have brought us as well to this point: hard work, saving, cooperation, education, a determination to take the long, strategic view. We have to renew our commitment to these values as well, to recognize that international comparisons must be made and that the spirit of continual improvement is not just a cliché in a management textbook but a reality of our life as a people.

It's an exciting, challenging world. We should not shrink from it or see any part of it as alien to ourselves. We should embrace it and embrace the partnerships it implies.

1400

Les économies infranationales et régionales joueront un rôle de plus en plus important au sein de ce monde interdépendant. Le territoire de Hong-Kong et la Chine du Sud, qui forment la région du delta de la rivière des Perles, et la région japonaise de Kansai, concentrée sur les villes

d'Osaka, de Kyoto, de Kobe et de Nara, pour ne mentionner que deux de ces économies régionales, sont des partenaires naturels pour l'Ontario, tout comme le sont devenus les Quatre moteurs de l'Europe. Il va sans dire que nous sommes fiers de notre identité canadienne et que nous voulons collaborer plus étroitement que jamais avec nos partenaires canadiens, mais il nous faut également envisager notre avenir économique de façon plus claire sur les plans de nos avantages et de nos propres réalisations, et en relation avec nos principaux partenaires économiques et sociaux à l'échelle mondiale.

Most of our trade is carried on within the Great Lakes region, and these of course will remain critical partnerships. But as an industrial region going through important changes, we need to compare ourselves to, and indeed learn from, those parts of the world that are among the most dynamic parts of the global economy.

This sense of our being part of a world economy in which local markets and regions are clearly linked needs to extend well beyond the business community. Our schools and universities can lead as well, as can local governments. I've been encouraged by the number of Ontario municipalities that have active twinning partnerships with cities and towns in Asia. Indeed, as an aside, I'd say to the member for Mississauga, who's listening so intently, that I had the pleasure of being in Hong Kong and Japan at almost the same time as my good friend the mayor of Mississauga.

We need to do more to make sure we are taking maximum advantage of these opportunities.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I wouldn't admit that if I were you, Bob.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): You should have listened to her.

Hon Mr Rae: I didn't say I saw her there; I just said she was there at the same time.

Let me outline some future tasks and projects in Asia that I intend to have our government pursue and which I believe the economic future of the province requires.

First, we have to do more to help our key industrial sectors develop Asia strategies that enable them to develop marketing, product development, research and even packaging approaches to these vital markets. We're doing this, but we have to do more. The government will work through our Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology to foster these efforts in sectors such as telecommunications, the automotive industry, information technology and plastics.

Second, we need to work with our existing centres of excellence, the seven that were set up by the previous government and whose funding has been confirmed by this government, to focus potential private sector investment from Asia on research and development. We need to introduce key Asian research imperative corporations to the finest talents of Ontario's university and private sector labs. There's considerable interest in doing this; we simply have to take advantage of it.

We need to look at how we might better foster the study of Asian languages from the elementary to the

post-secondary level in the province's education system, along with the development of even more Asian business expertise among our business school students and faculty.

We need to build new links between our public sector institutions devoted to marketing Ontario internationally, such as Ontario International Corp, and those of our most aggressive municipal development bodies, and with the federal government. We can and must work better together.

We need to work with the leaders of our Asian Canadian business organizations to help make better use of Ontario's unbeatable human connections to Asia. Ontario is, for example, the favourite destination anywhere in the world for Chinese expatriates from Hong Kong and south China. We should make better use of this potential for our own province.

We need to advance the process of reorganization that's already been launched within our government to make our international marketing and promotion efforts the best in Canada. We need to bring together the expertise of our ministries of Education, Tourism, Agriculture and Food, Colleges and Universities and MITT to focus on delivering our province's message of opportunity to Asia and Europe and further sharpen the focus of our representation in Asia, especially in the booming new markets of the region, about which I'll have more to say later on.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those working in the private sector as well as for both the government of Canada and the government of Ontario who helped make the trip a success. We need to do more to develop our business and human connections with Asia, which is, I would remind the House, a third of the world's land mass, nearly half of the world's population and, by the end of the next century, fully 40% of the world's economy.

This is a challenge that we all share.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services):

Today my colleague Energy minister Brian Charlton and I are pleased to announce a new energy retrofit program planned for Ontario's government-owned buildings. This is a joint program between my ministry and the Ministry of Energy which will save energy, reduce the province's energy bill and create jobs.

An estimated \$100 million will be spent over the next five years to achieve energy efficiencies in our owned buildings. This investment will cut the government's \$88-million annual energy bill by \$20 million and make our buildings 20% more energy-efficient. Not only are we reducing the burden on taxpayers; we are also creating 2,200 jobs over the life of this program.

We are financing the project through methods that include leasing agreements and contracts with energy service companies. With these options, the cost of the program is actually funded by the private sector and is self-financing. For example, a private sector company will purchase new energy-efficient lighting and install it in our buildings. Under a lease-purchase agreement, we will completely pay for the lighting fixtures with energy savings over a three-to five-year period.

In a previous statement the ministers of Government Services and Energy, together with Ontario Hydro, announced an energy conservation program for buildings owned by this government. Since then, Ontario Hydro has completed more than 1,300 power saver audits in our buildings and recommended relamping, replacement of mechanical equipment and other measures to save money.

Six Ontario government buildings have already been retrofitted under pilot programs financed by the green workplace program and the Ministry of Energy. Electronic ballasts, a new T-8 lighting technology, has been installed in the Macdonald Block, realizing an energy savings there in excess of 20%.

Our challenge is to retrofit more than 2,000 buildings and we're doing it in a way that shows leadership and saves on our operating costs. With our new approach to financing, we have found a creative solution to getting the job done. We are setting an example in energy conservation which we hope will be followed by other major energy users.

We are calling on the private sector to join us in forming a partnership to invest in energy efficiency. For businesses and industries in Ontario, this retrofit program will help stimulate the development of a green market in the energy service sector, which will create more jobs.

An example can be seen at the Canadian General Electric plant in Oakville. This plant recently expanded to produce energy-efficient lighting. This means between 500 and 700 jobs will be created or maintained, resulting in substantial economic benefits for Ontario.

As the official landlord of Ontario government buildings, the Ministry of Government Services is moving quickly to implement these retrofits. The first building to be retrofitted under this program with energy-efficient lighting will be the Macdonald-Cartier building in Kingston. Approximately 50 other buildings across the province have also been selected for retrofitting within the first year of this program.

I'm pleased that my ministry and the Ministry of Energy can benefit Ontario taxpayers with this program by saving energy and money and by creating jobs.

1410

PREMIER'S VISIT TO ASIA

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): It is not an exciting day, it is a sad day when the Premier talks about his recent trip to Asia as a success.

More than 11% of Ontario's workforce are without jobs; more than 100 plants have closed in the first 10 months of this year; there are more than 1.2 million people on welfare and 20% of the young people of this province are out of work—higher than the national average—and the Premier's sole response to this economic crisis was to go to Asia for two weeks.

The Premier will remember that we said at the time: "Premier, you should stay home. You should talk to Ontario businesses. You should ask them what they need to be able to be competitive and then you should take your trip overseas, Premier, telling investors that Ontario is indeed a good place in which to invest your money." Instead, the

Premier went overseas without talking to companies at home and proceeded to criticize them for being less than competitive.

Then the Premier announced that a Japanese company, Kubota, had decided to expand its Ontario plant. He must have been reading a calendar because Kubota immediately said that it had made that announcement two years ago.

In the meantime, we understand that Toyota has announced that it's going to double its production in North America. That expansion will be either in Mexico, Kentucky or Ontario. I wonder whether on his trip to Asia the Premier was successful in getting a commitment from Toyota that its expansion will be in Ontario, and if he was not successful, why not?

The extent of the Premier's Asian trip was a two-year-old announcement and criticism of Ontario business overseas. Premier, you should have stayed home to do what you could do here to restore confidence in doing business in the province of Ontario. Instead, as soon as you left, your government passed the labour legislation bill, which is already sending investment out of this province and is certain to discourage any new investment from coming in.

While you were away, Premier, another 19 plants in this province closed or were in the process of shutting their doors for good. Those are only the plant closings that we know of so far and the final closure numbers for that period of time that you were away are likely to be much higher.

We found while you were away that the provincial government was not doing much to help workers who will lose their jobs because of the closures, because we found that the Jobs Ontario Training program had turned out to be a complete failure. While the Premier was away there was a new government report that came out that said that, under the NDP, workers stay unemployed longer and when they do get jobs they earn less than they did before.

While you were away, Premier, another 1,000 workers in the province of Ontario lost their jobs. While you were away your government announced possible dump sites, which has upset residents and guarantees even more ill feeling on this issue. While you were away we endured the farce of the former president of Ontario Hydro trying to explain by letter why he could not come to a legislative committee to explain the circumstances of his \$1.2-million severance package for his supposedly voluntary retirement because he had been placed under a gag order.

The Premier went overseas to show how strong Ontario is, and sadly, I doubt seriously whether Asian investors are any more reassured about putting their money in this province than they were before the Premier left.

There is no question that people want investment in this province, that people want to see an economic renewal, but there is also no question that people want the Premier of this province to understand what is happening here, to understand what he can and should do to start to turn the economic situation in Ontario around. People want to know that the Premier is prepared to address the concerns that clearly give the message that there is no confidence in doing business in the province of Ontario.

Premier, I would suggest that when you stay home long enough to get your own house in order, it will then be time to go overseas and tell people that Ontario truly is open for business.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I just have a few seconds to make my comments and therefore I will pose this question: How will the minister decide who gets a contract? Will he tender this or will he be issuing these contracts to card-carrying members of the governing party?

It seems to me that this is nothing more than good news used as camouflage to cover up the government embarrassment for the recent scandals that have evolved.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO ASIA

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I wish to comment on the statement by the Premier concerning 16 or 15 days in Asia. The leader of the Liberal Party has referred to all the things that have run amok while you've been away, and I believe I would concur with that, along with the layoffs, along with the more unemployed, along with the loss of hope, along with the hungry. While you were away, in fact, absolutely no move was made on a two-year-old commitment to implement a nutrition program for children in our schools—a sad disgrace, reinforced again today when four children came before and met with the Minister of Education.

You talk about what we should be doing, I guess, at the end of your comments, pages 4 and 5: "help our key industrial sectors develop Asia strategies"; "work with our existing centres of excellence"; "study how we might better foster the use"—I'm not going to repeat them all, but I'm going to tell you that this is exactly what we have been doing. This is what Progressive Conservative governments did. This is what Liberal governments did. If it isn't going on now, you cancelled it. There's absolutely nothing here that isn't common sense, straightforward.

Of course, this is what the Ontario government should be doing in fostering a liaison with our Asian partners in there. Nobody had to go 15 days to Asia to tell you that this is what we should be doing. There's absolutely nothing here, nothing we could see out of this trip that common sense wouldn't tell you we should be doing, what we were already doing, and if we weren't it was because you cancelled it.

Secondly, "All Ontarians have to embrace the simple reality that our common future depends on our ability to attract investment from home and abroad." Of course; that's the problem. That's why Canadian and Ontario businesses told you to get your own act together here in the province of Ontario. That's why we are less competitive today than we were seven years ago. We are not "Yours To Discover," as we used to be, to Asian countries, to investment from Europe, to investment from all around the world. We are not as attractive as we once were, when we brought 99% of all this investment into the province of Ontario.

You did another thing while you were over there, Mr Premier, for which I soundly condemn you, as did the chamber of commerce. You went over to Asia and you ran down Canadian businesses. That is something we do not do. We put our best foot forward. We don't go over there and tell them everything that's wrong with Canada or everything that's wrong with Ontario—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You're doing it. You run down the province.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Algoma. Order.

Mr Harris: We do that right here; that's what this vehicle is for.

Even Canadian businesses, when Canadian businesses go abroad, when they're in Asia, they pretend they don't know you. They don't tell them about the disastrous government. They don't tell them, "Don't come to us." If they knew you were Premier, they'd try to forget that you're Premier. They don't want potential investors to know the disastrous direction that you have for potential investors in this province.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Would the real Mike Harris please stand up?

The Speaker: Order, the member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Harris: They follow that time-honoured rule that all governments follow, that all businesses follow, that we all follow: When you are in Asia you put your best foot forward. You don't run down Canadian businesses. You attacked them for not being competitive. You attacked them for not seeking out the opportunities in the markets. They say: "Shame on you. Get your act together here at home. Allow us to compete in our domestic markets and we will then be able to compete with North America and with the rest of the world."

Finally, in your statement you talk about NAFTA and concerns about the North American free trade agreement. Let me share with the Premier that in discussions I have with those in the business community, particularly foreign investors from Asia and from Europe, they too express concerns with NAFTA. Their number one fear is that the NDP will get elected and cancel all access to markets completely. Their number one concern, when they want to locate a plant in North America, is that there will be a free trade agreement, that there will be access to the complete North American market, not just Ontario and not just Canada. In fact, as companies are looking for global mandating and at global marketing of their products, that's their number one concern.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Mel Hurtig can fight that battle.

Mr Harris: That's right. Now that Mel Hurtig is out there espousing that position a little more clearly than the NDP, perhaps they will understand some of the differences as well.

Yes, they have concerns, but their first concern is that they want an agreement, they want free trade, they want

access to these markets, otherwise that investment is going somewhere other than Ontario.

This report to us today I don't believe represents the Asian business viewpoint, and Mr Premier, I think you hurt us by going there for 15—

The Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. It is time for oral questions; the Leader of the Opposition.

1420

ORAL QUESTIONS

JOHN PIPER

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Premier. We now have two cases in which a private citizen has been deliberately smeared, one by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the other by your friend and your close adviser, John Piper.

Premier, we've looked very carefully through the record, and it is true that throughout these situations with Mr Piper and with the Minister of Northern Development you have never actually said that it is wrong to smear a private citizen. You have never actually said that you consider this to be a fundamental breach of trust, a fundamental abuse of power. You have said, Premier, that you do not condone the behaviour, but will you stand in your place today and tell us and the people of this province that you believe that this behaviour is fundamentally, morally wrong?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member can express her characterization of various issues and situations as she will. Let me make it very clear that with respect to what Mr Piper did, I made very clear my views on that. I made very clear, with respect to the actions that have been taken. I indicated very clearly to the province, as soon as I heard of it, the depth of my own feeling on the issue. I think any attempt to discredit a private citizen is wrong, and in this particular instance the results were as we've seen them. I don't think there's any member in this chamber who doesn't feel the same way about that incident.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, I'd like to direct your attention and your responses to the very human dimension of the kind of behaviour we've seen from your closest adviser, and I want to ask you about the victims of Grandview, who continue to suffer because of the actions of your government. I'm sure you're aware that as a result of the dirty tricks of your closest adviser, 14 Grandview victims have either withdrawn from their support group or they've expressed reluctance to participate because of the fear that they too will be smeared in public by your government. Premier, will you admit that Mr Piper's dirty tricks campaign, run out of your office, has worked, and that it has further victimized the victims?

Hon Mr Rae: I'd say to the honourable member that the investigation of the incidents taking place at the Grandview institution, about which complaints were made and about which there is now a police investigation, has to be,

in every way, shape and form, independent of the political process entirely. That is absolutely essential. It's therefore difficult for me to comment on the particular allegation that's been made by the honourable member.

But I would say to the honourable member that I sincerely hope that nothing that has happened would in any way, shape or form discourage anyone from coming forward, and say that we obviously have a responsibility to ensure that people can come forward without fear of any kind of response from anyone. I want to make that very clear.

I hope the member will appreciate that, given the fact that there is an investigation going on, it is difficult for me to make any further comment except to say that of course we want to ensure that people are coming forward and make sure that that's in fact what's taking place.

Mrs McLeod: Difficult for you to comment? It's difficult for you to comment on the people who are involved in the Grandview investigation, but it wasn't difficult for John Piper to call a reporter into his office and offer information, confidential or otherwise, that could be used to smear one of those victims, simply because she had involved one of the members of your government in her allegations.

Premier, I want to take a moment to tell you of what transpired in this House while you were away so that you will no longer do a disservice to the victims of Grandview by trying to explain away the inability of your government to respond by saying it's under OPP investigation.

There is a report, a detailed report, from the Information and Privacy Commissioner which addresses the concern that you and the Attorney General keep offering as your reason for suppressing that report. I use the word "suppressing" deliberately, because the Information and Privacy Commissioner very clearly says that the investigation will be in no way jeopardized by the release of the 1976 report. Stop using that as an excuse, Premier, and deal with what has been done to the victims at Grandview.

Premier, even Michele Landsberg has criticized your government today for the way in which the Grandview victims have been treated. She's condemned the efforts to smear the victims, and she's demanded the release of the 1976 report. Premier, the 1976 report is the one piece of information which can legitimately be put into the public arena which may give those victims some support for their allegations.

I ask you if you will tell us what you will now do to help the victims of Grandview, who have now been further victimized by John Piper's actions. Will you at least respond to their wishes? Will you order the Attorney General to release the 1976 report?

Hon Mr Rae: First of all, I want to say with respect to the preliminary comments of the member—and I say this quite sincerely—I have very high regard for the Leader of the Opposition, and I would hope very sincerely that the Leader of the Opposition would not misconstrue my comments, the way I believe she did in her opening remarks. I would say to her most sincerely and without any sense of partisanship on my part that there's absolutely no interest

on my part or on anyone else's part in withholding any information from anyone.

But I would say to the honourable member, the idea that the Premier of the province would order the Attorney General to do or not to do something, with respect to his judgement and the judgement of the Ministry of the Attorney General, with respect to a report—it is just very difficult to see the circumstances in which that would be possible.

I will say to the honourable member, however, that of course I will look carefully at the record of the questions that she has asked, I will look carefully at the record of the answers that have been given, and I will seek to determine if there's anything more that can be done. But I honestly believe that when one's dealing with a situation of this kind—particularly in light of what's taken place, which I regret most profoundly—I would say to the honourable member that I can't simply make an instant response to her in the House with respect to something. Of course there are going to be strong opinions on all sides, but I also have to consider what it is that went into the judgement of those who said that they don't believe this is the moment at which that information can be released.

But of course whatever we do has to be done with sensitivity to those people who are complaining about what took place at the Grandview investigation, and also to ensure the integrity of any police investigation with respect to what took place. That has to remain the overall judgement that's exercised by this government in very difficult circumstances, and of course in circumstances that are further charged by what took place last week.

Mrs McLeod: I ask you then to personally read the freedom of information commissioner's report, which has been in the public arena for some time, and, having done that, to just once drop the defence and respond to the human concern that's there.

Premier, I would ask you as a second question whether you're aware that your friend and your top adviser, John Piper, spearheaded the creation of a new office called the central communications secretariat. Are you aware that this office was to be used for more centralized, more politicized communications processes, designed solely to make you, the Premier, look good, and that it was to be operated directly under John Piper's control?

Hon Mr Rae: Of course I'm aware that this government has decided to cut the overall communications budget of the entire operation, and that we've tried to seek some greater coordination of our overall approach to communications. I think that's been well known, and I think it makes good sense.

If I may say so, I seem to recall, during the honourable member's bid for election as leader, her saying that there needed to be more coordination and that perhaps some communications and other work could be combined.

Let's not turn what took place last week, which we all deplore and which I certainly deplore, into some attempt to find a nefarious purpose behind everything that's done. We're trying to cut some budgets, we're trying to bring

them together and consolidate them, and that's the beginning and the end of it.

1430

Mrs McLeod: Premier, it seems to me that it's a rather unfortunate moment in time for you to try and defend the central fund as being a way of coordinating and providing more effective communication.

It's our understanding that under John Piper's direction between 3% and 4% of each ministry's communications budget was not to be cut. All of us would applaud your efforts to control budgetary spending if that was your goal. But this wasn't to be cut, this was to be drawn off the ministry budgets and transferred to a new central communications secretariat for a total budget under John Piper's direction of between \$5 million and \$7 million.

We understand that the role of that secretariat was to fund more polling, not to coordinate communications across the ministries, and to have greater control over government advertising. I would ask, Premier, for you to indicate to us exactly what the office is for, why it was to report directly to John Piper and to the Premier's office, what the money has been spent on so far, and could you explain why you decided to allow your friend and adviser, John Piper, to establish his own political communications fund, drawing for that fund from all the other ministries?

Hon Mr Rae: Look, what we have been doing is an attempt to create a net saving for the government in terms of its communication. That's what we've been trying to do. That is the beginning of it and that is the end of it.

As I say to the honourable member, she can fish as long and as hard as she likes and she can try to draw all the comparisons she wants to draw, but that is the beginning and the end of it. It wasn't some kind of personal decision by Mr Piper. It was a considered decision by the cabinet that, frankly, previous Liberal governments had got into the habit of falling all over themselves, of ministries falling all over themselves, spending money, polling, doing all this stuff under the Peterson administration. We were trying to bring about some kinds of efficiencies in the sort of mess we'd been left by the previous administration.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, may I remind you that we're dealing with the situation of a man whom you hired, whom you brought into your office to be your closest adviser with the one goal, and that was the goal of making you and your government look good. We are dealing with a man who has now resigned because he was prepared to use any tactic he needed to use to achieve his goal of making your government look good and that, Premier, is why we have questions about Mr Piper's budget and the uses to which he was going to put it.

Quite frankly, as we look more and more into the past activities of John Piper and his work in your office, we have more and more questions. He has resigned in disgrace. He was able to skim millions of dollars from all ministries for his own political targets under a new office reporting to him and we have to ask: What else was John Piper up to?

Premier, I suggest to you that all of this speaks to the need for a legislative inquiry, an all-party committee to

review John Piper's special political projects and the operations of your office. I would ask if you do not agree that we need to get to the bottom of Mr Piper's activities and all that it means for the operation of your office, and will you immediately agree to establishing a committee review for that purpose?

Hon Mr Rae: The short answer is, no, of course not. I would say to the honourable member—you know, it's interesting. Everyone has agreed that what took place last week was wrong and represented something which all of us can agree on. What we have is an effort, then, to sort of move on from there, because we've all agreed on that. I agreed instantly with that on Friday and that was my immediate response. Then we have the effort on the part of the opposition to look at every single incident, everything that's taken place over the last two years, and try to concoct some kind of a campaign on their part.

I want to say to the honourable Leader of the Opposition, I think if you look at the budgeting policies of the previous Liberal administration, we had no budget codes for any of the communication budgets in any of the ministries, we had them staffed with very partisan people, we had budgets totally buried within ministries.

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his remarks, please.

Hon Mr Rae: That was what was acceptable under the Liberals, that was acceptable under the previous administration and we said, no, we're going to cut those budgets. We're going to try to produce some coordination. The deputy minister in charge of the Management Board secretariat has been given the explicit responsibility of trying to make some kind of sense out of the partisan Liberal and Tory mess that existed on the communication side.

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: I refuse to allow the events of last week—I refuse to allow the Liberal Party to somehow erase the memory in the minds of the people of the province—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the Premier take his seat, please. New question, leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I would suggest to the Premier that Mr Piper is helping to erase a lot of those memories.

My question is to the Premier regarding a report this morning in the Toronto Star. In the wake of the latest scandal to hit your government, several former residents of Grandview school are now afraid to get involved in the police investigation into the alleged sexual abuse. They have seen what your government tried to do to one of their fellow survivors and they're afraid that they too will be smeared by your government.

Premier, what assurance can you give the survivors, the victims of Grandview, that there are not others involved in your office, that there are not others involved in your government in this type of smearing campaign? Have you conducted your own investigation into that to determine whether Mr Piper was acting alone, and can you give us

unequivocally the assurance today that there is no one else that was involved or had knowledge of what was going on with Mr Piper's actions in this regard?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm certainly satisfied that what Mr Piper did was an act of his judgement alone in terms of there having been no consultation or discussion with anybody else in my office. I obviously wanted to be sure of that on Friday. That would be the first question I would ask: "How could something like this have happened? Who would have authorized something like this?" The answer is, it wasn't; it wasn't discussed.

I would say to the honourable member I hope there's still sufficient trust in our public life for people to understand that, regardless of our partisan feelings and partisan intensity, that's the sort of thing that any Premier would ask in an office situation.

The second thing I want to say to the honourable member is, of course, if there are people who are reluctant to come forward—you say, "What further assurances can I give?"—I can only state categorically and unequivocally that people should be encouraged to come forward without fear of recrimination and without fear of any attempt by anybody to hurt anyone.

That has to be clearly understood—granted of course that other people have their legal rights as well, and of course that's the case. But certainly no one involved in the administration of this government should be saying or doing anything to discourage people from coming forward and expressing themselves clearly with respect to events that took place some 15 or 20 years ago.

Mr Harris: Premier, there is absolutely no question—I too want to be clear about this—that we want to have that trust. The alleged victims in the Grandview case want to have that trust. But you must appreciate that we have had smearing before, some of which has been condoned by you, by one of your cabinet ministers. The record of your government is not good. It makes in many cases a mockery of this so-called commitment.

During the scandal involving sexual improprieties in the corrections ministry, female guards were afraid to come forward to tell their side of the story for fear of reprisal. You will recall that John Piper was one of those who was in charge of controlling the damage from that scandal. Now the victims of the Grandview school are backing down as a result of the attempted smear campaign by Mr Piper. So, Premier, they've seen a pattern here. This isn't an isolated incident.

I'd like to know if you personally can assure all women in this province, including the alleged victims at Grandview, that no one in your office and no one in your administration or your government or ministries, no one, is going to be involved in any reprisals should they come forward. Will you give your personal guarantee to that as Premier of this province and head of this government?

1440

Hon Mr Rae: Of course I will state categorically that it is my policy and it is a policy of this government that people should be able to come forward without fear of reprisal. However, the one thing I have to say, because I

don't want to be misunderstood, is that if there are allegations made against a specific person or against a specific individual, obviously that person has certain legal rights as well. That's a fact of life too.

But there certainly should be no impediment or any sense among anyone involved in the Grandview matter or any other matter who would fear coming forward because of any kind of action being taken by the government; of course not.

Mr Harris: One thing we do know, that in a number of areas, female victims for whatever reason—the Premier will say, "They have nothing to fear in me," and I believe the Premier means that—are afraid of your government. They're afraid to come forward and they have been now in more than just one case. They're afraid that they will be victimized a second time by the government of this province. This scandal is just the latest in a series of dirty tricks campaigns, if you like, or smear campaigns to silence your political opponents. This time it wasn't a highly paid doctor, it wasn't a large business lobby, but it was a woman who is an alleged victim.

Mr Premier, let me ask you this. I realize there's an ongoing investigation. There are no charges that have been laid, and I personally and my caucus have wanted to await that before we raise any questions surrounding the former Minister of Energy who resigned. But there were allegations made; the minister resigned, as we think is appropriate; you accepted his resignation as appropriate.

Before the Grandview investigation was even completed, you then recently promoted the member for Kitchener to parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transportation, and I would ask you, Premier, what signal that sends to Miss Harris, what signal that sends to the women of this province, what signal that sends about how seriously you treat the allegation that is now being investigated.

Hon Mr Rae: You've raised the question of when people came forward. In fact these incidents date back some 15 or 20 years. It wasn't until the election of this government or recent changes that people came forward.

I would say to the honourable member that the member for Kitchener has attempted to carry on his public responsibilities in a very difficult circumstance and I would say to the honourable member that I don't think any of us should prejudice in any way, shape or form what's taking place.

Mr Harris: I'm not prejudging. You're prejudging. I don't quite understand the lack of consistency in the Premier's logic here.

My second question is to the Attorney General. Mr Attorney General, would you confirm for this House that you were considering obtaining a court warrant to seal John Piper's office as of last Saturday?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The answer, to my knowledge, to the member's question is no.

Mr Harris: Some of the information I have received, and I confess I can't confirm it, is that in fact you or your ministry was considering. My supplementary would be, why would you not be considering? Why would you not have been considering sealing Mr Piper's office to make

sure that any information that may have a bearing on the OPP investigation was there? Why would you not have done that?

Hon Mr Hampton: I think it's very important at this juncture to emphasize again to the members opposite and to the public that the Ontario Provincial Police has been asked to investigate the incidents that occurred last Thursday and Friday which allegedly involved Mr Piper. The Ontario Provincial Police has full control over this investigation. They will make the decisions as to what information they need, how they require it, how they will get it and what kinds of court orders they may have. I have no intention of interfering in any way in an Ontario Provincial Police investigation.

Mr Harris: Could you tell me if you directed your deputy minister to suggest that Mr Piper be allowed into his office with Melody Morrison without any OPP present, without any forensic audit on the type of material that was being removed? Did you direct your deputy minister to do that?

Since your position here today is, "It's in the hands of the OPP; far be it from me or my ministry or my deputy to have any involvement in this," if you did not direct your deputy minister to do that, are you not then concerned that your deputy minister gave the authority for somebody on the Premier's staff, who should be under investigation in this whole matter—every one of the Premier's staff should be under investigation. Who gave the authority to the deputy minister? If it was not you, does it not concern you that authority was given without any OPP present to see what was removed from Mr Piper's office?

Hon Mr Hampton: It is true that Ms Morrison requested legal advice as to whether or not it would be appropriate in the circumstances to allow Mr Piper to remove his personal effects from his office. I am informed that that advice was given.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Two minutes ago you said your office wouldn't have anything to do with it. You are talking on both sides of your yap. Two minutes ago you said you couldn't do it.

The Speaker: Order, member for Parry Sound.

Hon Mr Hampton: The advice was that Mr Piper should be accompanied to the office, that anything he sought to remove from the office should be inspected and that it should only be personal effects.

If I might add, the Ontario Provincial Police will decide how to conduct the course of its investigation. It is neither for the leader of the third party nor for me to tell the Ontario Provincial Police how to conduct its investigation.

The Speaker: The member for Renfrew North.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is to the Premier. I want to return to what, for me, is the essential issue in this disgraceful misconduct; that is, what Mr Piper did. It may be true that Ontario may not long remember what we say here, but it will be a long time before Ontario forgets what John Piper did here.

The Premier has said in recent days, and as recently as yesterday, that while he does not condone what Mr Piper

did, it is not unusual and it is not unique for this kind of activity to occur. That's what the Premier said, and I want to focus this question on that point.

What we have here is a high official and close friend and appointee of the Premier who has gone out and somehow accessed sensitive information from the justice system, a system that is supposed to be apart from government. That high government official has then taken that sensitive information and, with the full power of the state and government, applied that information to the detriment of a defenceless person in this province. That surely is what Watergate was all about.

The Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr Conway: One of the Premier's own colleagues says it was Nixonian.

Does the Premier not understand that the real issue here is that abuse of power; the premeditated, pre-conceived willingness by a high government official to take sensitive government information accessed from the justice system to attack a defenceless citizen who dared stand up against the government itself?

Hon Mr Rae: I've served in the House with the member for many years, in fact from the time I was elected to this place, and I say to the honourable member, with great respect, that I think he diminishes his argument by the excessive language that he uses and by the comparisons that he makes.

1450

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Not at all, not at all.

Hon Mr Rae: No, I really do. I think that what took place last week was very wrong. I have indicated that; this government has indicated that. We have responded, and you will proceed to make all the comparisons that you will, and you can proceed to use all the language that you want.

I will say to you that it's deplorable, that there's now a police investigation taking place into what happened and that it is not something which I in any way, shape or form condone or approve of. For the member to suggest anything otherwise is completely inaccurate and not a reflection at all of how I feel or how I have responded to the situation as we have faced it in the last while.

Mr Conway: Yesterday in this place the Premier said that while he didn't condone what Mr Piper did, there was nothing unique, nothing unusual in these kinds of problems, and that is where I differ. This is a breach of trust. This is an abuse of power that is qualitatively different from anything that has ever happened in the political history of this province.

Fifteen years ago, John Dean wrote in *Blind Ambition*: "In the Nixon White House, upward and downward paths diverged yet joined, like prongs of a tuning-fork pitched to a note of expediency. Slowly, slowly, steadily, I, John Dean, would climb towards the moral abyss of the president's inner circle until I finally fell into it, thinking that I had made it to the top just as I began to realize I had actually touched bottom."

Does the Premier of Ontario not understand that with the abominable conduct of John Piper, we now know there is a moral abyss within the Premier's inner circle? Does he not understand that in Pipergate, not only in this government but in the political history of this province, we have reached a Nixonian bottom? Does he not understand that this is a very serious matter for this Legislature as well as for Judi Harris, and will he not undertake a more serious and a more comprehensive response to the gravity of this problem than we have seen to date?

Hon Mr Rae: It's precisely because I take the issue seriously that I find it very difficult to take the honourable member seriously—very difficult.

The honourable member can draw all the parallels that he wants, he can make all the comparisons that he wants and he can make all the political attacks that he wants, but it doesn't take away from the fundamental issue which is here. A very, very serious mistake took place last week. It was something which I abhor, something which I deplore, something which in no way, shape or form corresponds with my own view of what should happen.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): That was no mistake. That was a deliberate plan. It was your government and your office.

The Speaker: The member for Willowdale.

Hon Mr Rae: There is now a police investigation—

Mr Harnick: Your government.

The Speaker: The member for Willowdale, come to order.

Hon Mr Rae: There is now a police investigation under way.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Rae: Mr Speaker, I have to say, for the benefit of those who are listening, it's very difficult to talk because of the heckling. I will try to keep on talking and say to the honourable member that it's precisely because we take it so seriously that there is this police investigation under way. I can assure you and I can assure the honourable member that I take this matter very seriously. I take what's taken place very seriously indeed. As I said to the member, it's precisely because I take this matter so seriously that I find his effort to turn this into some kind of partisan windmill a little hard to take.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is for the Premier as well. It's difficult, in some respects, to take his protestations seriously. He says he has been taking this whole matter seriously, but some of the activities since he landed on these shores would put that into serious question. The fact that he landed in British Columbia and heard about this matter and was very concerned but at that point did not take any initiatives to secure his office certainly raises serious questions about how seriously indeed the Premier takes this whole matter.

The Ontario Provincial Police was notified on Friday afternoon, but because of the weekend it was not able to assign an officer for an investigation until Monday morn-

ing. So there was a window of opportunity, if you will, if you want to look at it that way, in respect of Mr Piper coming into his office with the Premier's chief of staff late Sunday night to remove files from this building.

We on this side have to wonder why it was so important for Mr Piper to come in a few hours before the official police investigation was launched to remove materials from his office. Did he leave his keys to the house in the office? We all have to wonder why he had to come into the office a few hours before the official investigation was launched.

It's difficult to believe that since the Premier returned to Toronto he has had no contact with anyone in his office. I want to ask him directly, was he contacted by anyone in respect to Mr Piper's visit? Was the question posed to him and then he perhaps directed that, "We have to cover our political tails by involving a civil servant"? Was he completely ignorant of Mr Piper's plans or wish to visit his office on Sunday evening to remove files? Did you know nothing about this?

Hon Bob Rae: I did not, and I would say to the honourable member that, again, you can make all the accusations and allegations against me and against everybody else that you want, and no doubt some will be made. I would just simply say directly to the honourable member, the request by Mr Piper to take his personal effects from the office was received. A phone call was made to the Deputy Attorney General with respect to what should be done to deal with this. Was it necessary for a police officer to be present? The response came back, after inquiries by the Deputy Attorney General, that as long as all that was being removed was his personal effects and as long as his visit was supervised, that was fine. That's the response that took place.

Nothing was removed; no government documents were removed from the office by Mr Piper. It's our understanding that this is precisely what took place; no more, no less. It's my understanding that this process is one that was certainly understood to be sufficient and adequate and fair and reasonable in the circumstances by the people who were consulted in this regard.

Mr Runciman: I don't think I'm being cynical to suggest that I have great difficulty with the Premier seeing nothing wrong with a chief adviser to himself coming into the office only a few hours before an official police investigation is launched, in the dead of night on a Sunday night, to remove files. He's saying he sees nothing wrong with that.

I think the question is raised in many minds that his chief of staff was not there to ensure that the right things stay but instead that the right things are removed. It raises a whole area of questions which I believe are important.

I like to think that if my executive assistant, for example, was accused of criminal activity, I would secure my office. I wouldn't allow my executive assistant to go in and rifle the files a few hours before the police launch their official investigation. But the Premier again, like he's done on so many occasions, is defending that sort of activity. It's indefensible, again.

I want to say there are so many questions raised about this in respect to compromising the justice system, a whole host of questions, this should be referred to a committee of the Legislature, and I'm asking the Premier today, if he has no concerns, he's not covering up anything on the part of activities of anyone within his government, will he refer this matter immediately to the standing committee on justice for a complete and thorough investigation?

1500

Hon Mr Rae: I saw the headline in one of the newspapers saying, "No Inquiry, Says Rae," or whatever.

The member opposite knows full well, from his experience in this House and his experience in these whole areas, that the Supreme Court of Canada has now made it very clear with respect to the conduct of inquiries in parliamentary committees that are parallel—

Mr Runciman: I'm only talking about a committee of this House.

Hon Mr Rae: The member says he's only talking about a committee of this House. I would say to him that exactly the same thing would take place, and that is the difficulty that we have. It's precisely because I believe profoundly in the integrity of the justice system that I think we have to allow the police investigation to take place without any form of political comment or interference of any kind whatsoever. Once that has taken place, we can then see what else needs to be done and has to be done in order to ensure and maintain full public confidence.

I want to say to the honourable member that it is important for all of us to do that and to maintain it, and that's precisely what it is my firm intention to do.

ABORTION CLINIC

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): My question is for the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health is aware that the proposed Morgentaler clinic is just outside the riding of York East. Many constituents, both business and residential, are concerned about the safety of the neighbourhood. My question is: What is the Minister of Health doing to ensure the safety of the area residents?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): The member will know that under the independent health facilities legislation, which has been in place for a number of years now and which licenses the clinics—of which the Morgentaler clinic that he's referring to is one—there are provisions through the capital funding, under the funding of the global budgets, for security provisions.

In addition to that, after the bombing of the Morgentaler clinic we provided specific funding assistance to clinics to try to address this issue of additional security measures. Those measures are available to the individual clinics and to the buildings in which they reside, and that stands.

The other thing that has been ongoing: The Morgentaler clinic itself sought an injunction against picketers because, I remind you, it's not the activity itself that presents any danger; it's the attraction of individuals who come there to protest or to take specific actions that may present a danger.

So there's the ability of those injunctions against picketing which is in place, and there's always the consideration of taking the broader step of an Attorney General's injunction if the circumstances warrant that.

Mr Malkowski: Could the minister tell me why these services are being offered in a clinic and not in a hospital, and how is this clinic funded?

Hon Ms Lankin: The funding is done through a negotiated global budget; it's an approved budget that goes through the Ministry of Health. It covers a number of things: the facility costs and the actual services that are provided, salaries for the staff. Those are negotiated. As this clinic was moved, we renegotiated a new budget that took into account the rent and those sorts of things.

The question of why these are being provided in a clinic and not a hospital: We have a piece of legislation; the Independent Health Facilities Act was brought in to establish freestanding clinics. It's an opportunity for us to deliver community-based health services.

The reason why the legislation was required was because abortion, as a surgical procedure, was only allowed to be done within a hospital without the framework of legislation that would allow certain things that had only previously been done in hospitals to be done in a community-based clinic. So in that sense there's a special piece of legislation that ensures quality control through the College of Physicians and Surgeons and other sorts of things.

As you know as well, it has long been the wish of many people in the women's movements and others that these services should be available in community settings.

JOHN PIPER

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): My question is to the Premier. Premier, you certainly are aware of the fact that we have many questions about John Piper's efforts to smear and discredit a person who provided information which led to the resignation of one of your ministers.

As you know, John Piper was at the deputy minister level in your office. He was earning over \$100,000 a year. He was responsible for the government's and the Premier's communication strategy. You must have had a working relationship with Mr Piper, one of some kind of personal reporting, some kind of staff meetings, some kind of briefing mechanism.

Premier, my question is this, and it's not pre-empted by any OPP investigation: On the issue of any communication strategy—and I'm not only referring to the issue of the criminal record—on the Grandview-Ferguson affair, were you ever present when John Piper discussed this matter, or did you ever personally discuss the matter with him, or did you see any briefing notes on this issue generated on Piper's instructions? If so, what did you see or hear, and who was present?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): No.

Mr Chiarelli: Mr Premier, your refusal to answer any questions is not going to stop us from asking the questions that have to be asked. It is essential that we find out the exact nature of the involvement that you, your office and

your friend John Piper had in this disgraceful episode. This is why we are demanding a legislative inquiry into your office's dirty tricks campaign.

As you know, both crown attorneys in Owen Sound have denied providing the information to Mr Piper as he has claimed. I ask you, Premier, did you or your staff know who gave the Judi Harris record to John Piper? Was it through Will Ferguson or his lawyer or was it through the Ministry of the Attorney General? What actions will you take if it is revealed that the person who supplied the information is part of your government?

Hon Mr Rae: The short answer to the question is, very directly to the honourable member, that it's precisely to determine answers to those kinds of questions that one has a police investigation. That's exactly why it's there. I would say to the honourable member that for me to comment or to say anything of any kind at this point would fly in the face of that investigation. All the facts will come out as they should come out, and they must come out, and there's a process by which they come out.

I would say again to the honourable member, and he's done it just as his colleague the member for Renfrew North has done it: He says I refuse to answer questions. I never refused to answer a question. I gave him a very clear response, and then he said I refused to answer the question. It's precisely that kind of partisan approach which makes it so appropriate for us to say this issue has to get right out of the political process, because it's very clear that the best way in which the facts will all come out is by an independent process, and that's precisely why we have a police investigation.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question, the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I suggest to the Premier that we're disappointed a committee is not being set up. We're disappointed, quite frankly, that the police are not reporting to a legislative committee of this Legislature. That's where the findings really ought to be reported so that we can give assurance that there's nobody else who is involved.

However, in the absence of the committee, there are a couple of other things I'd like to get straight here, Mr Premier. You say you are certain that Mr Piper removed nothing that had to do with any potential investigation that will be carried out by the OPP in this matter. I would ask you this, Mr Premier: Did Miss Morrison provide you with a log of every item and every piece of paper that was removed by Mr Piper, and will you table that log with the Legislature today so that we can determine if everything and every piece of paper was in fact examined by Miss Morrison? If so, we would presume there would be a log to that effect.

Hon Mr Rae: I have no such log. What I do have is the assurance from Miss Morrison that she acted entirely on the advice and within the context of advice given her by the Ministry of the Attorney General and that she was completely satisfied herself that there were no government documents whatsoever removed by Mr Piper.

1510

Mr Harris: Mr Premier, I thought the Attorney General wasn't going to have anything to do with this.

When Mr Ashworth was under investigation, you said, June 23, 1989—and he would have been about the same status as Mr Piper is in your office: not the big banana but a very key and senior person—"The rot has extended to the heart of Mr Peterson's own office." So you would understand why we and the public and certainly the potential victims at Grandview feel that the rot has extended to the very heart of your office. You would then understand why we find it unacceptable that it is somebody in your office who may, or ought to, at least be under investigation as to what he knew or he didn't know.

There is a second thing, since we can't have a committee to investigate this, a committee perhaps to give advice to the OPP on some of the things we should do there. However, I would like to ask you this, Premier: Can you assure the Legislature and the people of Ontario today that there were no provisions in Mr Piper's contract for any severance, that Mr Piper in fact is not being paid five cents beyond noon on Friday for his services with the government of Ontario? Can you give us that assurance?

Hon Mr Rae: It is clearly my understanding and I think everyone's understanding that Mr Piper resigned as of Friday and that he's receiving no severance pay, no severance package and no additional payments beyond that point.

GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): My question is to the Minister of Government Services. Many people in Niagara Falls have expressed to me how very pleased and proud they are that it has been selected to be the site of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. People are very interested in both the jobs and also the design of this building, which is going to be a landmark in our downtown area. People also want this investment to be very wisely spent. I need to know: Will local people be involved and have input on the design of the building in order to maximize its impact on the city as a whole and also on the downtown core?

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services): I am pleased to respond to the member's question. As the minister responsible for the Ontario government relocation program, I am of course supportive of its aims. Two of those aims, job creation and urban renewal, can only be done in complete cooperation with the communities involved. That is why we first develop a set of urban design guidelines for each location, as we have done for Niagara Falls.

Earlier this month we held a public open house at city hall, Niagara Falls to share these urban design guidelines with the community and solicit input. We intend to make these consultations with the people of Niagara Falls through a further open house and through amendments to those guidelines, and I assure the member that there will be much public input into that process.

Ms Harrington: Will there be local people who will be involved in the design team for the building, and secondly, will local people be used in construction also?

Hon Mr Wilson: From our past experience with these projects, we do find that there is much local interest, much local input, much local spinoff and job creation etc. The normal procedure for this is to let construction and design be awarded as a result of a public proposal call. We intend to make sure we encourage local participation in that project.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. Premier, you've made many statements in the past about the importance of integrity and standards in government, and I cite back to you just one of those statements, a statement of June 1989 in which you said:

"There are those who say, 'Haven't you got anything better to do than deal every day with this question of scandals?' But the question of integrity is the first question in politics; it is the first question in government; it is the foundation of everything else a government does. If a government can't pass that test, it can't pass any other test."

Premier, integrity in government demands a consistency of standards. We do not see consistency, so we have some very real questions about your standards. I ask if you can tell us today what standards you apply in judging the conduct of your ministers.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I don't think there's any question that this quotation that the member has read and the statements that it contains—the leader of the third party raised the issue, for example, in his last question yesterday with respect to the statements in the speech from the throne—have been quoted on many other occasions.

This government's standards are clear. I hope my own standards are clear. I regret very much what has taken place and we've taken steps to deal with it. The clearest indication has been given by me and will continue to be given by me with respect to what has happened.

Her colleague says that what I stated yesterday was that while I didn't condone it, I said there was nothing unique or unusual. I never said any such thing. What I said was that human frailty is a fact of life. People talk about the heart of the matter. That is the heart of the matter. There are mistakes made and then there are judgements exercised and this House holds us accountable. This is a forum in which I am held accountable and I understand that.

I say to the honourable member, I hope very much—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: I know it's implausible, but I want to say to the honourable member, she can criticize me for what I have done or failed to do in the past, I understand that, and she will continue to do that in a way that reflects her beliefs and her views and I will do the same with respect to decisions and judgements that she has made. But

I haven't heard anyone on this debate suggest that the judgement that I exercised on Friday and the statements that I made on Friday or the statements that I made yesterday—

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —or the statements that I'm making today are incorrect. I hope I'm right in that assumption.

So I say to the honourable member, I regret profoundly what has taken place. Steps must be taken to deal with it and we are taking those steps in a methodical way. The first step, of course, has to be that of a police investigation and I would say to the honourable member that I regard this as an issue that has to be dealt with by the government. We are dealing with it as we must and shall deal with other issues as well.

Mrs McLeod: Premier, nobody but you believes that this is an issue which began and ended on Friday. This question is about your standards and the way in which you choose to apply them. It's about the fact that we don't see a consistency and therefore it is unclear to us, and I believe it's unclear to the people of this province, what your standards are and how you apply them.

I remind you of that inconsistency and take you back to the Minister of Northern Development, who clearly smeared a private citizen in public, an action which you now say is clearly wrong, but the minister was not fired. I take you back to the former Minister of Energy, who was fired as soon as he became involved in a police investigation into the Grandview affair. The Minister of Tourism, Premier, was not fired as soon as you referred allegations about his conduct to the OPP, but only after the allegations became public.

Premier, again we're talking about your standards and how you choose to apply them, and I ask you one very simple question as a measure of those standards: Why did you not ask your former Minister of Tourism to resign as soon as you referred allegations about his conduct to the Ontario Provincial Police? Why did you ask him to resign only after the second allegation became public?

Hon Mr Rae: I would say if the member is asking the question, and I know she is, in order to get a very clear response—and it's the first time I've had a chance to respond in the House on this matter and I'll respond as clearly as I can—again I acted on the basis of what I thought was advice professionally given and it was also my sense—and again this is something which a first minister has to deal with—all there was to refer to anyone was a rumour, which in my view required further investigation, a rumour which, I might add, was completely and utterly denied by the individual in question.

I then had to ask myself the question, if there is a rumour which is denied completely, I have no complaint, I have no evidence, I have nothing, all I have is a rumour, and it's denied completely by the individual involved, we have to ask ourselves the question, how do we respond? I think I responded fairly.

What if the rumour proves to be completely unfounded? What if it proves to be without any factual basis

whatsoever? What if there is in fact not indeed a complainant? What if there is no basis at all for the complaint? I would say to the honourable member that in that circumstance we're dealing with the reputation of individuals, we're dealing with their careers, we're dealing with their ability to perform in public office, and I have to deal with these issues in a way that I think is fair.

You ask me how I exercise my judgement. I'll say to the honourable member, that's how I exercise my judgement. I exercise it in a way that's as fair and reasonable in the circumstances as it can possibly be, and I think the way I exercised my judgement in that instance was respected: the need to get at the bottom of the matter, but the need as well for us to be able to deal with it in a way that's fair to everyone involved. That's the way I chose to deal with it.

1520

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. During the question period, the nature of the questions being asked prompted lengthy responses not of the type that is probably best suited for response to the order paper. Keeping in mind the balance we always try to achieve in here in allowing the ministers full opportunity, especially under difficult circumstances, to respond, I think it's only fair, although the time has expired, that we allow a question from the third party. I will recognize the member for Leeds-Grenville.

JOHN PIPER

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I'll try to make this brief. This is to the Premier. I think there's an important element in this whole matter that he's trying to avoid, and that's in respect to his failure to secure Mr Piper's office when he arrived in Canada on Friday from his trip to the Orient. He's also indicated that he did not request, or no one in his staff requested, that a log be kept. He has expressed no concern over this occurring on a Sunday night hours before a police investigation is launched.

When I've asked for a referral to the justice committee, he's said that this is under police investigation. Well, this is one element that will not be touched upon by any police investigation, and I think it is one of grave concern to all of us in this Legislature in respect to the involvement of the Deputy Attorney General, the involvement of the Premier and other important players in the Premier's office. I ask him again to explain why he's refusing to refer this to the standing committee on administration of justice, especially as it involves himself, his own office, members of his office staff and the Deputy Attorney General.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think I've answered that question completely. The only thing I would say to the honourable member—and it gives me an opportunity to clarify an answer I gave earlier to the leader of the third party as well as to the member from Brockville—is to say that Miss Morrison of course put a memo to file, which will be available to anyone, from the police investigating, with respect to the removal of material from Mr Piper's office.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired. Point of order, the member for Ottawa West.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Pursuant to standing order 34(a), I wish to advise you of my dissatisfaction with the response of the Premier to my question on his briefings by John Piper. The reason for my dissatisfaction is that it is inconceivable that the Premier had no information on the communications strategy for the Grandview issue.

The Speaker: I trust the honourable member will file the necessary document at the table.

PETITIONS

ENERGY FROM WASTE

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I have a petition that calls upon the Minister of the Environment to reconsider her regulations with respect to energy from waste in the province of Ontario.

It's signed by 525 people from eastern Ontario, particularly from the Cornwall area, who were encouraged to sign the petition through the offices of the Cornwall Environmental Resource Centre. I have affixed my signature to this petition and submit it to you.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature:

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London; and

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregard the public input expressed during the public hearings; and

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to a destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

It's signed by 12 residents of the county, and I've affixed my signature.

LIQUOR LICENSING

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): Today I am presenting a petition signed by 1,220 constituents from my riding of St Catharines-Brock. The petition states:

"The undersigned oppose the operation of adult entertainment parlours employing exotic dancers in or adjacent to residential communities."

I affix my signature.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have a petition signed by over 1,000 people in the city of St Catharines. It reads as follows:

"The undersigned oppose the operation of adult entertainment parlours employing exotic dancers in or adjacent to residential communities.

"We, the people, are concerned that Seductions will have a detrimental effect on the quality of community life in this part of the city. This type of establishment is inappropriate in a community where children and young people are living.

"We, the people, are concerned that the city of St Catharines currently has no bylaws which regulate the establishment and operation of adult entertainment parlours. This issues is now being addressed by St Catharines's city council. On November 9, 1992, council passed a motion that will begin the process of creating relevant regulations.

"We, the people, are concerned that provincial licensing procedures are inadequate to control the establishment of adult entertainment parlours in residential areas. As we understand, an application review process is conducted when a new application to license a premise is made. At that time residents have the opportunity to object to the application, thus having some say in the nature of their community. The original licence for 123 Geneva Street was granted for a family restaurant. This restaurant and its operation were compatible with a family community.

"We, the people, are concerned, however, that in the case of Seductions, the licence was transferred to a new operator with no opportunity for community reaction. The purpose of the establishment is changed drastically. The new operation is in no way compatible with a family community.

"The LLBO licensing procedures assume that area residents should have some input to licensing decisions. This opportunity is removed when a licence is transferred and/or the use of licensed premises is changed. This, we believe, points out a serious inadequacy in the procedures under which the LLBO operates.

"So we, the undersigned, request that our elected representatives make inquiries to the LLBO to determine if any actions can be taken to eliminate adult entertainment parlours at 123 Geneva Street and that they initiate actions that would allow residents an opportunity to object to changes to the use of existing licensed premises."

They thank us for our attention to this matter. I affix my signature to this particular petition in agreement with the petitioners.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I see the mayor of the city of Toronto is here, and she would like this petition. I have attached my name to this petition, and it reads:

"We, the undersigned residents of the city of Toronto, strongly urge that Metropolitan Toronto's market value assessment proposal should be referred to the Fair Tax Commission in order to create a property tax system that is fair and equitable."

COURT RULING

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): I have approximately 3,250 petitions from citizens of Ontario which read as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, in support of the mother of Debra Pauline Williams Ellul, draw to the attention of the House the following:

"That the right to appeal the decision made in the Debra Williams Ellul murder acquitting Guy Ellul of all charges be granted based on the fact that the decision not to allow the appeal does not accurately reflect the public's abhorrence and unacceptability of the outcome of this trial."

I affix my signature to these petitions.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Petitions? Reports by committees? Introduction of bills.

1530

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR LA DÉCLARATION DES DROITS DES VICTIMES

On motion by Mr Jackson, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 97, An Act to establish the Rights of Victims of Crime / Loi portant déclaration des droits des victimes d'actes criminels.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have any brief comments?

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I believe most members of this House are familiar with this bill. It is now a third attempt to codify in Ontario law the principle and acknowledgement that victims of crime have rights in this province. It seeks to correct a situation where Ontarians find themselves as one of the last provinces in Canada to codify these rights for their victims.

I will not discuss at length the elements of the bill, because it will occur in my private member's time in two weeks. I beg the indulgence of the House at that time to give it its full consideration in the names of those victims of crime who have not received the supports and the services that other victims of crime have been able to receive across Canada.

CONSUMER AND BUSINESS PRACTICES CODE, 1992 CODE DE 1992 DE LA CONSOMMATION ET DES PRATIQUES DE COMMERCE

On motion by Mr Cordiano, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 98, An Act to provide a Consumer and Business Practices Code for Ontario / Loi prévoyant un Code de la consommation et des pratiques de commerce pour l'Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have any brief comments to make?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): Very briefly, this consumer protection and business practices code is intended to bring about a new era of protection for consumers. I

look forward to its debate some time in December, I believe December 10, in private members' hour, and I hope all members from all sides of the House will support this initiative in the form of this piece of legislation.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Before I proceed with the orders of the day, I'd like to read the following:

Pursuant to standing order 34(a), the member for Ottawa West has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Premier concerning the briefing of the Premier by John Piper on the Grandview issue. This matter will be debated today at 6 o'clock.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

Mr Cooke moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I'll be very brief. Today I'm moving, on behalf of the government, the legislation that will give Metropolitan Toronto council the same power to proceed with its interim tax plan as any other municipal council would have in the entire province. In fact, all of the other municipal councils already have that power. Metropolitan council is the one exception to that rule across the province.

I don't want to underestimate the difficulty this bill presents and the concerns that have been expressed by people in the Legislature, some members of the Legislature, and some people in Metropolitan Toronto and, in particular, cities like Toronto and East York. Whenever you're dealing with this issue—we went through it a number of years ago in my home community, where there was not legislation needed to implement it—it becomes a very difficult issue because some people experience tax decreases, other people experience sizeable tax increases.

The compromise plan that Metropolitan council has come up with is not full market value assessment, and I think that is important to understand. It is a small step towards market value assessment. The mayor of the city of

Toronto, who's here today in the gallery, has certainly expressed some of the concerns they have in the city of Toronto about the move towards market value assessment. I think it's fair to say that the concerns they have are, even more, concerns about what happens if they move to full market value assessment and what the long-term effect might be on the city of Toronto, on downtown, if there were a move to full market value assessment.

That's why in this legislation we have not given permission to Metropolitan Toronto to go the next step. This legislation only authorizes Metropolitan council to proceed with the interim tax plan, which is a small step towards market value assessment.

What we have committed ourselves to do over the next few years, before this five-year period is completed, is to work with Metropolitan council and try to develop a fair taxation system. I think it's fair to say that the current tax system in Metropolitan Toronto is unfair and that the proposed tax system only in a very small way alleviates some of the unfairness. It's certainly an unfair tax system as well that's being proposed by Metropolitan council.

We need to work with the regional councillors, we need to work with the regional government, to develop a fair tax plan for this community. That's why we've said, "Yes, you can go the first step, but we're not going to give you the power to go the next step."

That's also why we have put certain provisions in this legislation that will make it necessary for Metropolitan council to pass certain bylaws to implement its interim tax measures. We believe it's very important that certain parts of this plan be re-examined by Metropolitan council because of the concerns that have been expressed by the business community, by people who live in the residential communities in the city of Toronto and in communities like East York.

I think there are some real questions about what the long-term impact would be on the city of Toronto if we went to full market value assessment. This is a great community in which to live, and one of the reasons it's a good community to live in is because we have people of all income levels living in downtown Toronto, we have communities and residential neighbourhoods in the city of Toronto.

Mr Speaker, you will know that I live across the border, about five minutes from the city of Detroit, and I know what happens to a community when its downtown core loses its residential communities: The community then dies and the impact on the suburbs is very substantial as well.

That's why over the next five years we've committed ourselves to working with Metro council to do the social and economic impact studies of what would happen if there was going to be full market value assessment and to work with Metro council to look at all of the options to develop a fair tax system.

1540

This has been a very controversial and emotional issue in Metropolitan Toronto. I don't remember, in the 15 years that I've been a member here, that there has been an issue that has faced Metro council that has been as controversial

as it is. I think it's fair to say that the profile of Metropolitan council and of the regional chair has increased considerably in the last number of weeks. I don't know whether they would think that was good or whether they think that is bad, but I do believe that everyone, or most everyone, has come to the conclusion that the current tax system in Metro Toronto doesn't work; it's unfair. And I think there's a general recognition that, while the plan that Metro council has put forward is a little bit fairer than the current system, it's not fair either and that we've got to take a look at the property tax system in this community. We've got to take a look at the property tax system across the province, and that's why the Fair Tax Commission is looking at this issue. I hope we'll be able to develop some recommendations and that over time we will be able to reform the property tax system, not only in Metropolitan Toronto but right across the province.

One other issue has been raised which I think has credibility, and that is that while most of the rest of the province has market value assessment, there is a uniqueness to Metropolitan Toronto that doesn't exist anywhere else in the province. I don't need to be convinced of that; I think that is absolutely true. There's no place in Ontario where the differences in the market vary so significantly as is the case in Metropolitan Toronto. Of course, that adds to the distortion of the property tax system and is one of the reasons why we have to come up with a better system.

But as Minister of Municipal Affairs, I also believe very much that local governments have to take some responsibility for decisions they make, and that the provincial government can't make all the decisions for local government. That's why we are proceeding with legislation that will enable Metropolitan Toronto to proceed with its interim tax plan but put it on notice very clearly that we have to work together to find a fair tax system so that when reassessment occurs again, we do not move to full market value assessment.

I want to make it very clear that we on this side of the House do not believe that full market value assessment would be in the interests of the people of this community, not just because taxes in downtown Toronto would go up even more, but because that would have a substantial impact on the development of this community and, I think, would have a negative impact on the core of this community. While some people in the suburbs might not be concerned about that, we do have to look at what that would mean to the taxpayers and to the social and economic life of this community.

If downtown Toronto were to deteriorate, then there would be additional cost to Metropolitan council. There's no doubt about that, whether it's police cost, whether it's other social cost, infrastructure cost—all of those items would have a substantial impact if the city of Toronto and communities like East York were allowed to deteriorate as communities in the United States have. That would surely have a substantial impact on the taxes of people living in the suburbs in Metropolitan Toronto.

So while we're moving forward with this interim plan with the power to allow Metropolitan Toronto to move forward, bylaws will have to be passed at Metro council.

That will give the opportunity for the level of government that is responsible to have a second look at certain aspects of this bill.

I want to single out one part of the interim tax plan that I have great difficulty with and I believe the government does too; that is, the condition that, on sale, residential properties will move to full market value assessment. I have great concerns with that because I believe it could put the writing on the wall for what the next step would be. I ask Metropolitan council to take another look at that particular part of its plan. I don't think we should do anything that prejudices where we're going to go in year six, after this plan has expired and after we're into a reassessment and looking at a new tax plan.

All we're doing here is giving Metropolitan Toronto the same powers that other municipalities have. We're allowing them to go ahead with an interim tax plan which is a very small step towards market value assessment. We're putting Metro on notice that we will not go to full market value assessment in this community, and we're telling Metro, "We want to work with you to develop a fair taxation system so that when this plan expires and there is a reassessment, we can then implement a fair tax plan in this community," and we're saying to Metro council, "Please look at certain aspects of your plan because we think they will have a negative effect and might prejudice decisions that have to be made down the road."

I think that's a reasonable and responsible approach by the provincial government, and I look forward to going on with second reading, having public hearings at the Legislature on the legislation, and then this whole matter will go back to Metro council, where it will have to be debated once again.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any questions or comments?

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Yes, Mr Speaker. I don't think I've ever heard a minister who could talk out of both sides of his mouth at the same time like this minister—

Hon Mr Cooke: In the history of the Legislature?

Ms Poole: —in the history of the Legislature; certainly the time I've been here, and that's really saying something.

On the one hand, this minister has said he doesn't believe that full market value would be in the interests of the community. He says it would be detrimental to the city of Toronto, and yet this same minister is the one who's planning to rush through this plan, to rubber-stamp it and not even have the guts to change the provision which says that, on point of sale residents in the city of Toronto will go to full market value. He doesn't have the guts to do it. Instead, he passes the buck back to Metro.

Mr Minister, if you did your homework, you'd know that Metro council has voted on that provision three times; that three times Metro council has passed it, over the objections of the city of Toronto and over the objections of the Metro councillors who represent the city of Toronto on Metro council.

When you talk about being sensitive to the city of Toronto, it's all a bunch of poppycock. You are determined

to pass this with a minimum of participation. You want it through by the end of this year. It is very clear that your government has changed the rules, and your government has the mandate and the majority to do that. Don't give us this nonsense about protecting the city of Toronto. The city of Toronto is not being protected by what you're doing.

What you should be doing is putting a provision in there which prohibits Metro council from bringing those properties to full market value at the point of sale, but you have not done that. You have opted out. You have co-opted out. You have copped out. So, Minister, don't tell me about your concern for the city of Toronto, because you and those cabinet ministers and those members from the city of Toronto have betrayed us.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I'm alarmed to hear some of the comments that my Liberal friend is making, especially about the initiatives that have been undertaken by this government to protect the city of Toronto, when in fact her government, the former Liberal government, dilly-dallied with this particular issue for so many years that, quite frankly, they made a mess of the entire thing. I'll remind her that it was the Liberal government that essentially changed the political dynamics in Metropolitan Toronto by requiring direct elections to Metro.

Quite frankly, I agree with direct elections. They changed the political dynamics of the Metro area, and a block of councillors were behind the leadership of a particular mayor and a couple of mayors getting together and blocking any decisions that would favour any of the other areas in the other regions within Metro.

On one hand she says, "You know, we introduced direct elections to Metro, which changed the dynamics," which in fact have allowed Metro to make a decision with respect to market value, a decision which Metro, quite frankly, has the mandate to do, as all other municipalities within the province of Ontario have a right to do. Metro made the decision.

Now she comes into this Legislature and says: "Well, geez, we don't want Metro to make the decision. You shouldn't have allowed Metro to make the decision. Quite frankly, you have the authority. Move in and usurp Metro's power." If that's what the Liberal member is advocating, then, quite frankly, boy, we're back to square one and she doesn't know what she's talking about.

1550

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): The member for Eglington surely has a point when she says she caught the minister speaking from both sides of his mouth. He certainly can't have it both ways.

I was particularly happy when he mentioned that he lives across the river from Detroit and that he says he has personal knowledge of the economic and social rot that can set in when a tax scheme and/or other items that have to do with municipal government affect the growth and living standards of a city. Having said that, would he then not come to one conclusion: that is, why introduce a

scheme of taxation at this particular time and place, before an economic impact study has been done?

The question that comes up repeatedly from all over the city of Toronto and from some sectors of Metro Toronto as well is: Has there been an economic impact study that points directly to what the consequences are when this particular plan is put into effect? I think it is not unreasonable to ask that this impact study should be done before the consequences of this plan can be identified.

The minister, therefore, cannot have it both ways. He cannot say on the one hand, "We're not quite sure that we can trust the Metro government to implement this plan properly over the years," and on the other hand say, "Yes, we will implement it, but only in a halfhearted fashion." So what we're asking for today is for the minister to have another look.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The time has expired. The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): The only body that has been very consistent in this debate has been that of Metropolitan Toronto council. On two occasions that I can recall, just recently and back in the late 1980s, they have initiated plans for market value assessment and they forwarded those plans off to provincial governments. Each time, they forwarded them off. There was an election held on one of them previous to passing, and now this one they've passed on to the provincial level.

This is the initial stage of market value assessment. Make no mistake about it, this is the initial first step. It is, to some degree, the minister speaking out of both sides of his mouth. I'm not going to argue that point. He's trying to suggest that this is neither fish nor fowl. This is a very small step to implement what needs to be implemented: market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto.

I represent a tax-paying community in Etobicoke that has for the last 40-odd years been overpaying its taxes. It's that simple. I hear a small bit of heckling from the gallery, but it's very true; they've been overpaying their taxes. This is the initial step that will hopefully rectify that situation.

I wish this government could have given full authority to the supervisory elected officials who have carriage over this, which is Metropolitan Toronto council. To the member for Downsview, make no mistake about it: Metro passed this plan and passed it by a clear majority vote. The city of Toronto is part of that Metropolitan Toronto council and it was part of the council that voted. The vote was 21 to 13, I think. That is not really what I classify as a close vote.

To take away any directness that they gave you, Mr Minister, is saying you don't trust or believe in Metropolitan Toronto council and, sir, I do. I think they have carried their job forward in a very uphanded and forthright manner, and any suggestion at that level, I think, is unfair to those people who have sat on Metropolitan Toronto council.

The Deputy Speaker: Minister, you have two minutes to reply.

Hon Mr Cooke: First of all, I didn't question the motivation of Metropolitan council at all. It's been a very difficult issue for them, and I think the kind of compromise

they've come up with demonstrates that they did try to come up with a compromise. There are parts of it that I don't agree with, as minister, and I think I have a responsibility to point out where I don't agree, but they have the authority to do what every other municipality can do across the province, and we've made a commitment that we will work with them to try to reform taxes in this community. I think that should be good news.

I find it interesting whenever I hear from the Liberals on this topic, or just about any other one actually, because I remember the history of this issue not only in this community but across the province. Bob Nixon, the former Treasurer, the Liberal Treasurer, was one of those folks who said to people, "Go for full market value assessment; we want full market value assessment," so I don't think it's fair or accurate for the member for Eglinton to stand up in here and somehow say that this is terrible and that they would never do this if they were in power. If they were in power, we'd be going to full market value assessment by provincial edict tomorrow. That was the position of the Liberal Party. So don't give me that.

I also don't think it's fair to listen to the Liberal Party and somehow give the impression that it's entirely unified even in the position that was enunciated by the member for Parkdale and the member for Eglinton. I don't know what the member for Wilson Heights is going to say on this issue. I don't know what the member for Scarborough-Agincourt is going to say on this issue.

Mr Perruzza: Oriole.

Hon Mr Cooke: Or the member for Oriole. I suspect that some of those members don't agree with the member for Parkdale and the member for Eglinton, because their constituents are going to receive tax decreases.

On the one hand, the Conservatives say we should go all the way and give unlimited power to Metro; on the other hand, some of the Liberals say we shouldn't do anything, and I think what we've done is try to come down on the middle and be fair.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): I'm glad to hear the minister say that this is a compromise, this is not a full—

Hon Mr Cooke: What's your position there, Bernie?

Mr Grandmaître: You'll find out very soon, Mr Minister. I'll be very honest with you, because I realize that what the minister is trying to do is to accommodate everybody but at the same time stay away from any final decision. This is what the minister and the ministry are trying to do.

I realize that when you talk about market value, not only in Metro but right across the province of Ontario, it's a very sensitive, very emotional issue, and it will happen again. Let's hope that this House won't be faced with the same problem as what we're faced with today.

I will not be specific, I will not be attacking any of the sections, but I'm glad to hear the minister say that this will be scrutinized or evaluated through a committee. I'm very pleased to say this.

Also, in his opening remarks, this is the second time in about three months I've heard the same minister saying, "We are faced with a unique situation." The first time the minister said that it was a unique situation, he was referring to the London-Middlesex annexation. That was unique, so unique that he sent out a letter of apology to 834 mayors saying, "Hey, give me a break, this is unique." Now he's telling us the same thing. Again we're faced with a unique situation. Every time this government makes a move it's unique and it's not the right one.

Municipalities in the province of Ontario were given the power to assess and to reassess back in 1970. At that time, the government of the time, the Tory government, was right in saying, "This should be a local decision, a local problem," if you want to call it a problem. Section 63 and section 70 have been with us since 1970 and I think they've been very successful. Most of our municipalities, in fact 75% of our municipalities, are under section 63, and the rest of our municipalities are under section 70, which doesn't apply to Metro Toronto.

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But what we are faced with today is a major problem. I don't think the minister was right when he said that we shied away from our responsibilities when we were the government. I want to remind you, Mr Speaker, that back in 1987 Metro was given the opportunity to vote on section 63, and it turned this government down. So this is not new.

I'm going to say that for most of our municipalities that are dealing with full market value under section 63, this program has been a very successful one. What I don't like about what is being introduced today is these compromises. It's true that the minister is saying: "Look, believe me, we are trying to accommodate Metro. Metro is the only region in the province of Ontario without that power, so it's enabling legislation to provide Metro with this kind of power." But the enabling legislation creates precedents, and this is what I don't like, and maybe this is why the city of Toronto doesn't like it.

We were talking about resale. Metro plans to have full market value assessment kick in for the residential sector if a home is sold any time during the period of 1993 to 1997. As far as we know, this is a precedent in Canada, not only in Ontario.

I realize what the government is trying to do. It's trying to deal with a major problem, but piecemeal, and I don't think it's going to be very successful. I believe this is a Metro decision. Yes, they should be given the power other regions have to make their own decisions, but to put this House in this kind of a bind is unreasonable for this minister. I'm glad we will have the opportunity to discuss and to meet with people and organizations that are concerned about the present compromise plan.

The minister talked about the mess that existed in this province for a good number of years because most of our municipalities weren't under section 63 or 70, and he's absolutely right. I think we should continue to provide that opportunity to every municipality. But to say that it's so unique in Metro that we will interfere, I don't think it's right to ask this House to do so.

I know that the city of Toronto will be dearly affected if this compromise, this unique plan of the minister, goes through. It will cost Metro maybe \$100 million in costs to the upper-tier government, the Metro government. I think this is very serious, because we are living in a very difficult economic time. The pressures not only at this level, the provincial level, but at the municipal level are twice as bad.

I know the minister or his assistant will tell us: "No, there are no real tax shifts in a class. For the residential class, for instance, if the total assessment is \$10 million, it will not increase the municipal coffers." I realize this, but at the same time I think we have to address the shifts from one street to another. I'm talking about maybe a similar home that's been overtaxed for a number of years, whereas three doors or five doors away the same type or a similar home is paying less taxes.

I agree with the minister that it's unfair and we are trying to correct this unfairness, but this is not the way to do it. I think landlords, tenants, small businesses will be affected—and large businesses as well—by this kind of legislation. I don't think we will have time to listen to all the concerns of the people of Metro if we want this legislation to go through by December 10.

I can assure the minister that we will not delay those committee hearings. We will grant him all the time possible. We will sit at night and even on Fridays and on Saturdays to accommodate the minister. It's not our intention to stall this legislation. I think more people will be addressing the specifics of this bill, and I'm anxious to hear what the speakers from the government will have to say.

The member for Downsview who said a little while ago that it all started when the Liberal government gave Metro the opportunity to elect its chairman and to elect its councillors at large: He's out to lunch. This is market value assessment. We're not talking about electing councillors or a regional chair. I think he's out to lunch, as usual.

I know that my colleagues will want to address this issue from A to Z—the member for Oriole and Lawrence and many others—so I want to assure the minister that our caucus, our party, will cooperate fully. If need be, we may ask the government to maybe delay if more people want to be heard at committee, but at the present time we will accommodate as many people as possible so that they will have their say.

I will sit down and listen to what the third party and the government has to say on this very important, and I repeat, very important Metro problem. It has to be a Metro decision and not a decision of this House.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

[Interruption]

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Are there any questions or comments? The member for Eglinton.

Ms Poole: I don't think that gentleman's the only one who can't figure out what's going on in here. I think many times a lot of us share that.

When Mr Grandmaitre was talking about market value assessment he talked about the classifications and about

the fact that there would be a shift within a class of taxes from certain parties in certain areas of Metro to others.

One thing that he didn't go into as far as the classification goes is that this is one area that Metro has not touched, this is one thing that the provincial government has not touched: the classification system that was set up many years ago. For instance, residences are assessed at 2.2% of their values. These are single-family residences. The commercial are assessed at 4.3% of their value, the industrials are assessed at 6% and multi-residential, that's apartment buildings, are assessed at eight times their value.

So this government, in other forums, has talked about protecting tenants and yet the Minister of Revenue has made no attempt to change this very inequitable situation where tenants pay over three times the taxes that home owners do.

This government talks about bringing in fairness, but it has not looked at the basis upon which this plan is formulated. The Metro plan is a compromise on a compromise on a compromise. It is 1988 values, it is a compromise on that, and it is based on a classification system which is outdated. If this government truly wants reform for tenants, let it take a look at that problem.

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The Deputy Speaker: The time has expired. Questions or comments?

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I don't plan on getting into detail; I just plan on speaking on behalf of the residents in Yorkview. The residents in Yorkview are going to experience a savings with the current plan. The residents in Yorkview would say to you at this point, Mr Speaker, and to the Legislature: "Why isn't it full? Why isn't the proposal that we were hoping would pass full-fledged MVA? Why am I not getting the full savings? Why did Metro change its mind?"

The members in Yorkview are going to receive a substantial decrease, a lot of them. It depends on the area that they live in. Some will receive \$50, \$60 and \$70 decreases. Others will receive \$200, \$300, \$400, \$500 and \$600 decreases, substantial decreases.

I am sympathetic towards the people in Metro and I do understand their concerns, but at the same time, try to understand the concerns of the people who have been subsidizing Metro for a long period of time. They have concerns as well. They haven't had the opportunity to voice their opinions as they would like and perhaps that's their fault for not doing that, but try to understand the way they feel about the issue.

The Deputy Speaker: The time has expired. The member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I want to congratulate the member for Ottawa East on his comments. Having been the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, he would certainly have very distinct and important knowledge on this subject.

He says that small businesses and large businesses will be detrimentally affected. Mr Speaker, how right he is. Look at the situation that we're facing right now in the city of Toronto and indeed across other areas of the metropolitan area as well—that is, our strip plazas, our small stores,

family-owned, on our major streets in Toronto and other places. Picture this, after this market value assessment plan goes into effect. As it stands right now, already you see that some of the businesses are hanging on by their fingernails to make a go. When this plan goes into effect, the consequences are bleak indeed. There will no doubt be more closings in your area, in my area. While the city of Toronto is going to be more detrimentally affected simply because of the increases, other areas no doubt will suffer as well. We will have more time later to get into the specifics.

The member for Ottawa East is right: Large and small businesses are going to be affected. I, for one, would not really want to participate in a situation where I would be a cause or the member for York East would be a participant in a cause that would indeed lead us to closings of more small stores and shops on our major streets.

The second point the former minister's been making is that he says, quite rightly, that there will be a transfer payment of at least \$100 million.

The Deputy Speaker: Your time has expired. Will you take your seat. Thank you. Are there any further questions or comments?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I have just a very brief comment at this point in time. I listened carefully to the member for Ottawa East's comments, and particularly his opinion with respect to the role of municipal government and the appropriate responsibility and accountability of municipal government for decision-making. I have to say that is in keeping with a lot of my thinking. This is a difficult compromise to reach with respect to the balance between provincial intervention and municipal autonomy on some of these issues. I'll speak about that in a bit more detail when I have my opportunity to address the bill.

I just want to point something out, because I think it will be consistently shown through the discussion on this that there are members of all three political parties who hold very disparate views from their colleagues within their own parties on this, depending on whether you are within the region of Metro or whether you are within the city boundaries. It reflects very much the debate that went on at Metro itself.

I'm quite surprised to hear the member for Eglinton and the member for Parkdale, members of the same party as the member for Ottawa East, stand up and say that they respect the remarks he made. They hold very opposite views. The member for Ottawa East was saying municipalities should decide this. The other two members are saying the province should step in and change the rules on this.

That's okay, because you will similarly hear very different views on this on this side of the House. But let's not be sanctimonious about it and suggest that it's only on this side of the House, on the government side, where that will happen. We do have very differing views on this issue, depending on our constituents and where we come from within the city or within Metro Toronto, and that will become clear as the debate continues.

Le Vice-Président (Gilles E. Morin) : Monsieur Grandmaître, vous avez deux minutes à répondre aux commentaires.

Mr Grandmaître: I think the member for Beaches-Woodbine is absolutely right: It depends on what side of the fence you sit on this one. I'm glad that I'm from Ottawa East, not from the Metro area. The same problem is happening in Ottawa-Carleton, but at least Ottawa-Carleton won't be back before this House for a vote. They'll be doing it on their own for the simple reason that in Ottawa-Carleton it's a little different. Most of our municipalities have been under a section 63 from 1975 up to 1992.

My answer to the member for Yorkview is that I realize that people living in your area will be receiving a considerable decrease. But at the same time the Treasurer formed a Fair Tax Commission. I'm told that the property tax commission has now completed its report. I think the Treasurer should table that report as soon as possible, by Monday, so that the members of the committee can find out what the government has in mind for property taxpayers in this province for the years to come. I think it's very important that the committee should have access to this report.

I realize that the Fair Tax Commission is trying to find a solution to all of our tax systems in the province of Ontario. School taxes, for instance, are very important; 52% of every municipal tax bill is education dollars.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have to say that this is probably the most pressing issue that I have found since I've been in this Legislature, because indeed this is the issue that brought me into politics. I've been fighting the inequities of market value for many years.

First of all, I just want to reflect a little bit on the history of market value for the purpose of anybody who's watching who doesn't understand the whole system. Our present system was based on a 1953 assessment, which was based on 1940s values. They had to go right back to 1940 in order to get a stable year for values, even in the 1950s when there was relatively little inflation.

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The current system that has been brought forward by Metro, the proposal it has brought, is a hybrid which was bred out of a series of buyoffs between various members across Metro. It can be suggested with the word "compromise" maybe it's something good and positive, but this is not something good and positive because indeed there was no study of this plan because this plan was hived in the last two hours of debate at Metro. All of the people who made presentations on this issue to Metro and to the municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto were talking about full market value.

The present system that we have, which dates back to 1940s values, typically was based on approximately a 10% land value component, unlike today, where in many cases we have as much as 100% land value. A perfect example of that is many of the houses in my riding where people live in houses that they bought 30 or 40 years ago. They

might be two-bedroom bungalows, but around them those houses are being bought up and knocked down and there are monster homes being built. The people who live in these houses have no control over what is happening to their neighbourhood. Their ability to pay and their consumption of services haven't changed. In fact in many cases their ability to pay has been reduced.

I must acknowledge that the present system is full of anomalies and inequities, and in fact there are many homes which are underassessed and there are many homes which are overassessed. So from the outset I want to say that I am not arguing against the need to fundamentally change the tax system because we do have a system which is creaking and groaning at the seams.

As has been pointed out by several people in debate so far, there are many views within all three caucuses, and I acknowledge that and you will be hearing that as the debate goes on. But I want to talk about the fact that the people I represent who are against market value are the people who are saying they want a fair tax system but this is not the way of doing it.

To have a really meaningful tax reform we have to look at other alternatives for Metro. The present scheme, I'm concerned, breaks the historic relationship between tax and assessment. Let me explain what I mean by that. Under this scheme that Metro has hatched you will only be able to appeal your 1988 assessment, not your taxes. To the extent that there have been caps put on industrial-commercial and residential properties but not on the other category, in the case of the industrial-commercial 25% and in the case of residential a 10% capping, a lot of people, if they are going to have an increase of, let us say, 50% in their taxes, will not appeal simply because even if they had it reduced down to 25% in the case of a residence, it still would not affect their taxes.

So by the back door this scheme, with the blessing of this government, is going to get in and the assessments are going to be accepted and in five years' time it's very difficult because there's no doubt about it, Metro is pushing in the direction of full market value. Have no doubts about that, anybody who thinks that this capping scheme is something which is just interim and suddenly a magic scheme is going to be brought forward. Metro wants full market value because Metro is a federation of the various municipalities of Toronto and the outer suburban municipalities see a net decrease in their taxes. However, many of the businesses in those areas do not see a net decrease. In fact many of them see increases.

What we're doing is we're seeing a shift of \$78 million a year in the tax burden from residential to non-residential taxpayers. There's been no provision in this bill whatsoever to reverse that. I think that in itself is something that we should pause and reflect upon because the potential damage to businesses will be irreversible.

What we're seeing is a whole set of different subsidies to some people and penalties to others. There's been absolutely no impact study done as to what this will do to businesses in Metro. We're going to see job losses and we're going to see bankruptcies of businesses and if you don't believe that, you get out there and talk to small busi-

ness people today and they will assure you that this is the case. We know that small businesses are in fact the engine that drives the majority of jobs in this province; not large businesses, but small businesses. That is well documented.

Turning to the actual assessment scheme itself, the assessment was very, very shoddy, and there are many cases of tremendous inequities. My friends who support market value will say: "Well, that's easy. You just go and appeal." But who is going to appeal if they're going out of business? At the same time, the others who are capped are going to say, "Oh, well, we'll worry about it later." De facto they're going to have the assessment accepted that way. This, as I said, was the result of a last-minute deal cooked up in the last two hours of debate at Metro.

I want to turn to the effect on urban areas. It's essential that we maintain healthy and vital urban cores. Quoting Jane Jacobs, who is one of North America's foremost authorities on life in urban centres—she has written intensely on the decline of US cities—her comment about Metro's MVA scheme is, "It's nutty." She says the plan will leave Metro with only two types of residents, rich and poor, and I would suggest we're all the worse off for that. The middle class will inevitably be pushed out to the suburbs because of cheaper taxes, and that will lead to inner-core deterioration. We only have to look at the example of US cities to know how detrimental it is to society.

Ms Jacobs goes on, "Another problem with MVA is that it will undermine small businesses and the jobs they provide." MVA may work well in communities that are stable and relatively small in total area. In Metro Toronto redevelopment interferes with the stability factor.

Let us turn to the effect of MVA on businesses in the downtown core. We know that there's a transfer under full MVA of \$100 million of municipal tax burden from large commercial operations on to the smaller sector. We don't have a full impact study—we don't have any impact study—to know how this is going to work with small businesses, but we can make some guesses.

It comes at the time of the worst recession that southern Ontario has known since the Great Depression. The ability of businesses to attract tenants into buildings is strictly diminished by this proposal. With MVA, you are absolutely capping, for a small period of time, the amount of tax increases but, by the same token, we have a massive decrease in the amount of rent that landlords can get from buildings.

One of the great things that is happening in response to this is that landlords are not very pleased about it, but they're lowering rents to attract tenants. We have the situation, which is absolutely obscene, that some of the large downtown office towers have net effective rents of between \$5 and \$9. Let me explain that for the people who don't know anything about commercial real estate. During the height of the boom, in 1988, which this assessment is based on, we had rents of between \$35 and \$45 in the large office towers. Now we're down to between \$5 and \$9.

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Now, the landlords won't admit that openly, but I am a commercial real estate broker, so I do know what I'm talking about. The effective deal is, by the time you strip

away all of the incentives that you give to tenants, this is what is being done. Existing tenants who may be paying old rents are at a higher rate. But in those same buildings where the net effective rent today is between \$5 and \$9, what are the taxes? Typically, \$10 per square foot. And when I'm talking about \$5 and \$9, I'm talking about per square foot. The taxes are typically \$10 per square foot, and business taxes are half of that; in other words, \$5. So the total tax take of the municipality and Metro is \$15 compared with, in some cases, \$5 to the landlord. The landlord must pay his mortgage out of that. He's not going to get any profit, we know that for sure, but we are countenancing the obscenity of governments taking three times the amount of money that the landlord is taking.

The government hasn't taken any chances, and that is one of the fundamental problems with governments. They don't have to take any risks. They are partners to successful businesses, and when they go under they disavow them. They become orphaned.

Taxes are out of control. The government won't be surprised to hear the Conservatives saying that, but I want you seriously to reflect on the resulting dysfunctioning of Metro and the job losses, job losses which are going to affect NDP supporters just as much as they affect Liberal and Conservative supporters. Why should a government be taking two or three times the amount of take out of a building that the landlord is getting? It's an absurd relationship.

As businesses abandon the core, we're going to get the example of the large US cities like Atlanta and Chicago. We only have to go across the border and look at these cities to see the result.

Let's look at the effect of small tenants in malls. In fact, I will go to that in more detail later and compare it with the large tenants. There are some winners under MVA. There are some residential winners, but I'll talk a little bit about some of the commercial winners. The allocation in shopping malls is rather bizarre. Take the example of Yorkdale: The total reduction in taxes under MVA is \$2.4 million, but anchor tenants and the mall developer are going to receive \$4.6 million in reductions. The inner-mall small tenants will face increases of \$2.2 million.

The small tenants are already paying a disproportionately large amount of rent per square foot, because the so-called anchors, the large tenants, get sweetheart deals. That's fair enough. The landlord knows that when he's going in, and the old idea is that they're to attract other tenants. However, it seems obscene that governments would continue and extend those benefits to those large tenants and say, "Oh, because you're paying less rent, we're going to charge you less tax."

If indeed we were to move to ability to pay in taxation across the board, I would not be fighting this bill; I would be shoulder to shoulder with the government. But I am not shoulder to shoulder with the government because this bill does not, in a general sense, take any account of ability to pay or consumption of services. However, in the example of some large tenants, it is taking that.

I want to talk about some reductions that occur for large companies. Bell Canada is going to get a reduction of

\$8.8 million; Eaton's is going to get a reduction of \$8.2 million; Sears Canada, \$7.7 million; Hudson's Bay, \$7.7 million; Simpsons, \$3.8 million; Zellers, \$3.9 million; Woolworth, \$2 million; and K mart, \$600,000.

I suggest that these companies may not be having boom times, but they're certainly in better shape than the small businesses of Metro today. Why would this government, which has proven itself over and over again, both in opposition and in government, to be a very interventionist government, not be interventionist this time around? We saw only a few days ago the spectacle of the government interfering with what Metro wanted to do with respect to the Toronto Islands when it gave the giveaway to the islanders, where they're getting to have waterfront cottages for \$1 a day for 99 years. That's how the government is prepared to interfere in municipal affairs. This time you're saying, "Well, really, this is not our affair." It's like the waiter who says, "I'm sorry, it's not my table."

I would remind the members of this government that during the last election, most of you who ran in Metro ran on a platform of being against market value assessment. I have, to prove it here, a whole set of responses to a questionnaire sent by the Citizens for Property Tax Reform. There were others who responded in all-candidates meetings. Surprise, surprise: Marilyn Churley, Tony Silipo, Margery Ward, Elaine Ziemba responded to this questionnaire; Zanana Akande gave commitments and I believe Frances Lankin also gave commitments that they were against MVA.

We cannot accept the idea that now you are in government: "Oh, there's a municipality asking for legislation. It's not up to us to interfere in municipalities' requests." That isn't acceptable to the taxpayers; it isn't acceptable to the voters. You ran on a platform. You cannot say, "Well, now we're the government we have a different answer." No wonder we have cynicism from the voters if there is one set of answers that candidates can blithely give in the hope that they're going to get elected, but they don't think they're going to get elected to the government; they think they're going to be the opposition.

This, of course, we are seeing over and over again. This is a government that is choking on the attitudes it had, on the fact that it ran on opposition attitudes and now it is coming to reality with the fact that it's the government. You can't have it both ways.

Let's turn to the "other" classification. Under "other," the other categories I've spoken about, there is a capping under market value. The government has said it's against full market value. Well, under the "other" classification you're allowing full market value. Who's going to pay the additional \$50 million in taxes? It's going to be passed on to consumers in higher prices.

We've got vacant land under the "other" category where there is no protection. Even large lots: If somebody has a house with an unusually large lot, if it's deemed severable, it is now being hit as a vacant lot. It isn't being taken as part of your garden, which breaks an historic relationship that's always been there.

Railway rights of way: We're not talking about the railway stations and the yards where they are. We're talking

about the lines that criss-cross Metro, the very heart of a system which allows the railways to exist. They're going to have a \$40-million increase under this scheme in Metro. It's been calculated that that accounts for a 233% increase in one shot. There are 15,000 jobs at risk. If you don't believe this, you just look at what CP did last week in the Maritimes.

It's estimated that Ontario Hydro increases will equate to a 1% increase in rates right across the board. That's what everybody, whether they're paying market value or not, is going to be paying.

I want to turn to the "time of sale" provision. It violates the principle of equal treatment, because now we have this bizarre situation that homes that sell on a street will be paying the full whack of market value taxes and somebody else may be capped. This is going to set neighbour against neighbour.

It's quite clear that in this market, the people who sell their houses are not doing it for speculative reasons. They're doing it because their job has moved or because they can't afford to live in the house any longer. So these people are going to take a penalty, because when somebody goes to buy a house and finds that the taxes are going to go up by 100% at point of sale, guess what's going to happen? People are going to start discounting the value of the house.

So the very system, market value assessment, that was put in place supposedly to create fairness is in fact going to be the very vehicle which forces values down and which will change values. It's a fundamental flaw in the thinking of the government.

1640

And what did the government House leader, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, say? He said, oh, he really didn't like this. So what is he doing? He's being very courageous. He's asking Metro to pass a bylaw. Well, Metro has already passed this bill, this motion. Guess what they're going to do. They're going to just pass the bylaw, so there is no protection at all, and for the minister to have the effrontery to suggest that he is trying to protect people is absolutely insane. He's just throwing the hot potato back to Metro. I must say, Metro deserves a good deal of the blame, but so does this government. We will not let them forget it and, I'll tell you, the taxpayers will not let them forget it in the next election.

This point-of-sale provision is going to block the mobility, because we find that seniors who need to move may be disadvantaged. They won't be able to move because they won't sell their houses, if they happen to be in a house where they're going to get significantly large increases.

It doesn't have any relation to the fact that there's a lot of services. In fact, in the area that I represent there's an awful lot of small bungalows which are paying \$6,000 a year now, and that bears no relation to their ability to pay or their consumption of services. That's without storm sewers, without a sidewalk, with relatively unmade roads, houses in not great condition. But because it happens to be an area of hot real estate where the developers are moving in and are buying houses and knocking them down and building monster houses, it is bidding up the area, or at

least that's what it did in 1988, the time when this assessment was worked out.

Can we imagine that here we have a Premier in this province who said, on February 11, 1988, "The need for a property speculation tax is perhaps even greater now in order to prevent this latest round of house price increases from taking the dream of home ownership away from working Ontarians for ever"? And yet that speculative boom, which bid up the value of houses for the one time—shot up and they've dropped down again—is the basis upon which you're going to lock in certain areas—in fact, all areas—and the relationship is going to be with us for five years.

These people cannot sell their homes at that price. Anybody would be pleased to sell their homes at those prices, but in fact they didn't sell their homes, they didn't change their home at all, but a developer bought a house, knocked it down and built a monster home next to them, which had the effect of saying that they had a very valuable property. They're going to be penalized under this scheme.

If indeed this government was wanting to protect people, and protect seniors particularly, then it would be addressing this inequity. But they're not doing it. Instead, what they're doing is eliminating for the many seniors any property tax credits, so that at the same time that property taxes are going up under this government, we're going to see the elimination of the property tax credits. So they're going to be going in two different directions at the same time.

I can't imagine that anybody in his right mind would want to sell his home for speculative reasons at the moment, but they're being penalized with 1988 speculative values, even though they didn't sell.

The problem is, MVA is not related to ability to pay, it's not related to the size of the house, it's not related to the size of the lot, it's not related to the services used and it's not related to the efficiency of the land use. We know that small downtown lots, which are very valuable, in fact are very efficient in terms of use of services. It takes less money to service a very dense street than it does sprawling suburban lots, and the expense of providing transport is not there because most of the people are readily available to their work.

MVA creates a burdensome bureaucracy. Potentially, this government could save \$200 million a year by eliminating MVA and going to the unit assessment system, because that is the alternative. So far, we've always seen that unit assessment was decried as not being fair, but in fact it has been proven by the Fair Tax Commission that unit assessment is a viable alternative. It studied the income tax rolls, it studied the market value and the unit size of properties in Pickering and it concluded that it certainly wasn't more unfair than MVA. So why aren't we going to a more streamlined system which would be stable, where people would know what their assessment was for all time and we could get rid of all of those bureaucrats? Because ultimately that's what this is about: The bureaucrats want to save their jobs in the assessment area.

It's been estimated that the administrative cost of appeals is 2% of what they will gather. The experience of Mississauga was that there were 30,000 appeals when market value was introduced. It's been suggested that, in Toronto, unit assessment could save hundreds of millions of dollars over a period of years. The volatility of the Toronto real estate market obviously leads one to the conclusion that MVA is not appropriate.

Let's talk about fairness. There should be a relationship between services offered; values should be predictable. MVA fails on both criteria. Indeed, we're going to see the decay of the centre of our cities. Unfortunately, because time is running out, I'm just going to skip over a few other things.

The taxpayer's right of appeal is going to be severely limited by this, because the historic relationship between the assessment and the taxes you pay is broken because you can only appeal your 1988 assessment; you cannot appeal the taxes. I suspect that the government understands this and is going to try to ram it through in the hope that not many people will appeal their assessment. But they're nuts if they don't, simply because if they don't, de facto, they are accepting market value. The next time around, Metro is going to be moving for full market value, have no fear of that.

I particularly want to talk about apartment dwellers, because this bill does nothing to address the historic imbalance which exists. Tenants in apartments are paying 8%. The factor is based on 8% of the property value, whereas residential is 2.2%. Why should residents in multiunit buildings be paying three times what home owners are paying? This government had an opportunity to address it. It has done absolutely nothing to address it.

The mayor of Toronto is sitting here today and, to her credit, is against market value assessment. I just want to give an example. Her assessment on her house is \$252,000. She paid \$2,494 in taxes. A three-bedroom apartment in North York paid \$2,223. How can the Minister of Housing consider that to be just? Why aren't you lobbying to have this bill changed so that we can finally address that inequity that has always been in the system for tenants of residential houses? I am absolutely shocked that you're not prepared to fix it. Today, as much as three or four months of the rent many tenants are paying goes to taxes. What is wrong with the system?

To conclude, we should be waiting for the Fair Tax Commission to report, and I think you would find that there would be many issues where the Fair Tax Commission would disagree with what this government is doing. Instead, the government wants to barge on and have its way. Then after the fact, they're going to say, "Oh, we didn't know." You've got the drafts of the Fair Tax Commission, which is due to report in a few weeks' time. You know what they're going to say, and you know that they don't approve of what you're doing.

How can the people who voted for you have any confidence in the members who said they would oppose market value assessment? How can they have any credibility in you when you will not oppose this? I would expect every member from Metropolitan Toronto who fought on a plat-

form of being against MVA to vote against this, whether he is in cabinet or not.

More than that, your party, the NDP, has a platform that you're supposed to be against MVA. These decisions are supposed to be binding. For the Liberals and the Conservatives, that is not the case; it's not binding. But the NDP has always had this myth, that it's binding upon you what is decided in your policy conventions. You've never taken that away. You are still hanging on to this myth and yet you're not voting against it.

1650

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Questions and/or comments? I see the honourable member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I want to say thank you very much to the member for York Mills. He has indicated that potential damages, he says, will be irreversible, we will see tremendous job losses, and bankruptcies, he says, will certainly go up.

Let's look very briefly at some of the statistics. I'm reading from the Toronto Sun October 23 article, which indicates that almost 8,000 Metro businesses—that's outside the city of Toronto—will be hit with market value assessment of 100%, and 11,000 in the city of Toronto will get 100% increases; 41,000 businesses will get hikes of more than 25% in Metro. Who can survive that? Nobody.

The minister then says, "What we've got to do is, we've got to put a cap on it of 25%." The conclusion of that is obvious. It's slow death, really. No one can survive that.

What we should be doing at this particular time with the recession is not really hitting businesses, especially the small ones in our neighbourhoods, with increases. What we should be hitting them with really—and I know there is a lot of sympathy on some of the government benches—are some decreases.

I had mentioned earlier some businesses are just hanging on by the skin of their teeth. We're forgetting one important lesson here; that is, that the weather-vane or the lightning-rod of a healthy community surely is the small business person and family business on our business strips or on our major roads. If we see deterioration and economic rot set in, which is already somewhat visible, it becomes obvious that the countereffect is going to be immediate, and that means that our neighbourhoods are going to rot as well.

My friends, what you and I both see is important.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Ruprecht: And that is, we cannot increase; we should be decreasing.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments. The honourable member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: I would just firstly like to comment on the member for York Mills's speech. I think it was an informative and accurate reflection of the issue, and I will say that it's important that it be accurate. Although there are some disagreements within the parties and within caucuses, I think we all have an obligation to outline exactly what the adopted measures taken by Metropolitan Toronto were.

I only wish I could say the same thing about the member for Parkdale. Accuracy didn't seem to have any bearing on his statement. The points you are making, sir, and I think were clarified by the member for York Mills in his comments, outlined the increases and the capping of those increases. The 100% and 800% increases you spoke of are not accurately reflected in what was adopted about Metro. You quoted the Sun newspaper and tried to pass it off as fact that there are going to be 100% increases in business taxes, realty taxes, and you know, sir, that's just not true. What is the fact is that caps have been placed on those existing businesses, to be phased in over a period of time, and that is what is reflected in the motion adopted by Metropolitan Toronto council.

I will say that there is some hardship endured by some of the business community when that kind of increase is put forward, but let's be clear that the full-blown market value assessment was never approved at the Metropolitan Toronto level on the business community and the business owners. To suggest otherwise, in my opinion, is somewhat misleading and unfair to the motion adopted by Metropolitan Toronto council.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments. The honourable member for Eglinton.

Ms Poole: I would certainly like to commend the member for York Mills for his speech. He brought forward many items which are not only true but which represent the dangers of market value assessment.

But when the member for Parkdale talked about the devastating impact on business, first of all, he did mention the cap, and second, I hope no member in this House will make light of the devastating impact on business.

Let me give you some statistics. Across Metro, 41,000 businesses are facing tax increases of the full 25% solely because of MVA, and about half of those are in the city of Toronto. Let me tell you that this 25% only refers to the increases over the three years for MVA. That doesn't refer to the enormous increases that are going to go on top of that because Metro can't control its spending. That will go on top. So we're looking at 41,000 businesses that will be looking at close to a 50% tax hike within the next three years. Just think of that. So "some businesses will have some hardship"? Excuse me: Many businesses will have hardship.

If you think it's only in the city of Toronto, I can tell you the statistics show very clearly that's not only the case: 28.1% of small businesses in North York will face the maximum increase; 30.3% of small businesses in Etobicoke will face the maximum increase; 28.9% in Scarborough will face the maximum increase; 40.3% of businesses in East York and 34.5% of businesses in York will face that 50% increase.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): First of all, I'd like to compliment the member for York Mills for his presentation today. I felt there was something he could have spent some more time on. Maybe that's one of the problems we have since the government has changed the rules

on timing around here: You're not able to go into the depth that really would be appreciated.

The point I want to raise is the change in position by the New Democrats. If you go back to their 1984 policy conference, the New Democrats adopted a resolution that said in part, "The New Democratic Party opposes any further introduction of market value assessment." Then during the 1990 election, a large number of New Democrats, when they were campaigning for office for September 6, 1990—that was when Mr Peterson had made the mistake of calling an election—a number of them went on record that they would vote against any legislative action that would enable Metro council to introduce market value reassessment in Toronto and Metro.

The fact of the matter is, I just think the honourable member for York Mills could have done more justice to the change in history, that many of these people have now got a different position. Before they got into government they were opposed to landfill extensions in Britannia and in—

Interjection: Keele Valley.

Mr Cousens: —Keele Valley, and now when they're in power they have quite a different position. They had a different position on Sunday shopping, and now they have another; one on auto insurance, and now another.

I really challenge the member for York Mills: Spend some time bringing out the fact that the New Democrats have had a mammoth change of heart. They've changed their minds on just about everything, especially when it comes to Marilyn Churley, Tony Silipo, Margery Ward, Elaine Ziemba and Zanana Akande. Three of these are still in cabinet, and who knows what will happen to them between now and the future? The fact is, they've changed their minds and they don't stand up like human beings and admit the fact that their word doesn't mean a thing.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member.

Mr Cousens: That is an issue I really challenge the honourable member for York Mills to get into—

The Acting Speaker: Your time is over. Thank you.

Mr Cousens: —because this is the issue of this government having lost faith, broken faith, and doing what it wants without any consideration to the facts and to the people.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Please be seated. The honourable member for York Mills has two minutes to respond.

Mr Turnbull: Indeed, it is true that I regret the House rules were changed in such a way to limit debate. In point of fact, we would very much have liked to have had more time—

Interjection: David, why did you vote for it?

Mr Turnbull: My friend, I did not vote for it.

The fact is that I'm very disappointed that nobody has got up from the government, particularly a certain cabinet minister from Beaches-Woodbine who is here.

Hon Ms Lankin: I am waiting to speak next. If you sit down, it will be my turn.

1700

Mr Turnbull: The member says she's going to be speaking next. I would ask her to tell us about the fact that during the last election she fought against market value reassessment. What happened in the meantime? You formed a government.

Why on earth do people have to be fooled into voting for you by these absolutely false promises? The fact is, Marilyn Churley, Tony Silipo, Margery Ward, Elaine Ziemba, Zanana Akande and Frances Lankin all said they would fight market value. I haven't seen any fight. I haven't seen any ounce of fight in this.

Why is it that you still have a party platform dating back to 1984 that you're against market value? This is market value, whether you like it or not, because these are 1988 market values. You can twist it any which way you want, but these are 1988 market values, not something else. You are breaking the historic relationship between those and the amount of tax you pay in order that people will accept them.

Well, I'm disgusted, and no wonder the electorate is so sick of politicians, when their word is not worth the paper that it's written on. There is the paper that it's written on and it ain't worth it. So I might as well throw it away. But let me say, stop MVA.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Hon Ms Lankin: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this debate. I listened carefully to the member for York Mills, and as he began his comments he said that he found this one of the most pressing issues that he had ever had to deal with in the Legislature and, for one reason, it was the issue that brought him into politics.

I can tell him that over the course of time that I have been elected—and this is my first term in office—and have been in government, particularly with my ministerial portfolio, I find that there have been a number of very pressing and very difficult issues that I have had to deal with, and I want to put this right forward as one that has been very difficult for me as well.

I appreciate hearing the comments of the member for York Mills and the member for Eglinton in particular, because I share very deeply their position with respect to market value assessment and with respect to the merits or the lack thereof of the Metro plan.

It's been an interesting process for me, because I have for a number of years—and I actually can't remember whether or not I was sent one of those questionnaires during the election. Had I been, I would have clearly signed it as being someone who opposed market value assessment.

For a number of years I have been involved at the community level in a fight to get people to reassess their opinions with respect to municipal taxation and our methods of municipal taxation, to look at the need to move education, for example, the burden of education costs out of property taxation and find another way to fund that, the need for us to consider ability to pay.

I was quite astounded actually to hear the member for York Mills put forward that position with respect to ability to pay, and I saw his caucus colleague the member for

Etobicoke West cringe all the way through it. There is perhaps an ideological difference there. Maybe I'm misrepresenting that, but I know that they hold very different opinions with respect to market value assessment at least.

I've always felt that it's very unfair, particularly in my own community, as I look at the number of seniors—

Mr Turnbull: —our consciences though.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Lankin: Mr Speaker, I would just point out that I sat very quietly and listened to the member for York Mills and I would appreciate if he would do the same for me during this period of time.

Mr Stockwell: I just want to say, show me two people who agree and I will show you one person doing all the thinking.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon Ms Lankin: Actually I didn't hear what the member for Etobicoke West said, but it's probably just as well. It would probably have been provocative. Perhaps my colleagues would also allow me to continue.

Consideration of market value assessment for me has been a consideration of what is fairness with respect to taxation. In my constituency we have one of the highest percentages of seniors who own their own homes, and as I have met them over the years as I've been involved in all sorts of different community organizations and events, those seniors have lived in those homes for most of their years. They grew up in the Beach, they married, they settled in the Beach. They have been there for a long time.

People who are familiar with real estate within the Metropolitan Toronto area will know that the Beaches has been an area that has seen dramatic increases in real estate prices over the years and that those seniors, many of whom are on fixed incomes, would truly be the victims of a market value assessment. Their property values have increased because of others who've moved in, young urban professionals such as myself, who can afford to pay increased taxes on my home according to my ability to pay. But it is just so unfair in terms of what that transition and change in our community will have done to the market value of homes of seniors who will not be able to pay taxation that relates to that.

One of the problems I have with the situation I find myself in here is that I actually have another fairly deeply held belief, which is respect for local decision-making and community empowerment. I have for a number of years also been an advocate of devolution of decision-making down to communities and respect for that process. I should be very clear about that.

Many of the arguments and positions that I have taken actually go beyond the municipal level, to involving different organizations within communities in appropriate decision-making, but there can be no respect for that without respect for the process at the municipal level and the powers and the accountability structures that are set up there.

Having said that yet again, when I looked at the Metro plan and realized that it was going to be coming to the provincial Legislature, I found a way around that principle and said: "Yes, but Toronto's different. This is the largest

city in our province. This is where there is a huge amount of both industrial and commercial activity which needs to be supported, an economic engine in many ways, a centre of access from other parts of the country and the world into this province. The state of our urban core has to be of consideration to the provincial government as well."

If it begins to sound as if I have been pulled between pillar and post on this, quite frankly it's because I have been. I think that, even moving away from the discussion of full market value assessment, the Metro plan, as it is, is a bad plan and I think it will have a very negative impact on the core of our city of Toronto. As a Torontonians and as someone who represents Torontonians, I resent the process of decision-making that has taken place at the Metropolitan Toronto government level, which saw the sheer weight of numbers determine a decision which is so important to my constituents and to myself. On the other hand, there is a sense of democracy to that, I guess, in which that is the appropriate level for decision-making there.

I listened to the member for Ottawa East and another member—I think it was the member for Etobicoke West—who raised the consideration about the fact that the municipality should have the full power to do that. Why was the government coming forward with something that didn't extend just the full and automatic power to Metropolitan Toronto from here on in and why were we requiring that in five years' time whatever new assessment Metropolitan Toronto came up with had to be brought back through a provincial process?

I'm going to say I have some sympathy with the comments they've raised. I think it does run counter to my deep belief that there should be local accountability. But what I would suggest to you is that this, as the Metro plan was, is the product of a compromise in terms of discussion, a product of people who have very different views attempting to find a resolution to the differences in those views.

Some of the members opposite have made much of the change of position of members of government from the city of Toronto with respect to this issue. I tell you very directly that I have not changed my position at all. I oppose market value and I oppose the Metro plan.

There is an obvious question in terms of what I have done about that. Have I raised my voice? Have I been party to any discussion to attempt to achieve a different result? Have I attempted to see something else come out of the process than moving ahead with full market value? My answer to you will honestly be yes.

1710

I have participated in the free democratic process within my own caucus with respect to this issue, and I think that although one can be critical of the compromise that was arrived at with respect to having Metro come back in five years into the assessment period, having Metro work with the province in terms of looking at impact studies and looking at other kinds of property tax reform over that period of time, I at least take some comfort—although it may be small comfort, and I realize it won't be shared by my friends across the floor, particularly the members for York Mills and for Eglinton—that I have

had some impact in the democratic process, that I have been able to accomplish something.

I can't imagine that the report from the Fair Tax Commission property tax working group could come forward with anything but some assertion that property tax needs to be reformed in a way that's fair, and that market value is not a fair sense of assessment. The member for York Mills says we have that report already. I can tell him that I have not seen that report; that report is not in our hands. I understand that it is going to be released soon. I hope that it's out there in the public domain. I hope that it's there before Metropolitan Toronto has to pass the bylaw with respect to moving to full market value on resale, because I think it would be of assistance.

But it is only a step in the process of the Fair Tax Commission. It's a working committee report. It will report back to the full Fair Tax Commission, which will gather together all of the various reports, and it will be some time before we have a final product from the Fair Tax Commission. I myself will commit to trying to work towards ensuring that there is some implementation of fair taxation when we receive those measures and recommendations from the Fair Tax Commission.

I think that the question that can, fairly, individually be levelled at me by members opposite with respect to my own position as a member of government is, where will I be when it comes to the vote on this issue?

I'll say to you, quite frankly, that as a member of cabinet I cannot vote against the government decision and the government bill that is coming forward. The choice that I would have, if I decided that I was going to vote against this bill, is to resign from cabinet, and that's the choice that would face me.

I've given some thought to the question of on what occasions you use the power of not simply the threat but the fact of a resignation from cabinet to influence policy decision-making or to go against what has been a collective decision-making process and a democratic decision being taken. That's an important thing for me always to continue to consider and for all members of the Legislature to continue to consider.

I've decided that I'm not going to resign from cabinet in order to vote against this bill. I think there are many things I'm doing within the field of health, in my portfolio as Minister of Health, that I am challenged by, that I am excited to be involved in, that I think I'm showing leadership on. As part of this government, I want to continue to do that important work.

I also want to continue to work on a number of other issues, not the least of which is to try to be part of a government that can bring about fair taxation and changes in taxes, particularly with respect to property taxation, to move away from market value. I do not support this.

I'm not in a position where I can come into this House as a member of cabinet and vote against a government bill, so I will continue to try through the avenues that are available to me which I believe are fighting for the appropriate kind of property tax reform: the measures that have been given to me by the way in which the government bill has been constructed; the assurances that we will have impact

studies done with Metro, that we will look at the effect on the city core; that in the future we will take the advice of the Fair Tax Commission; that we will send back to Metro, where the issue properly belongs, the decision with respect to move to market value on resale, and hope that we have more information in the public domain on which the elected members of the municipal government, who are truly accountable for the revisions to any individual municipality's taxation process, can make that decision with fuller information.

It's not an easy decision to make, and it's not an easy position to be in. I don't expect sympathy from members opposite; in fact, I expect that there will be quite a lot of criticism. But I am very straight with you in terms of where I am on this position, I've been very straight with the members of my constituency with respect to this, and I will stand by my position to remain part of a government and part of a cabinet that will fight for overall property tax reform that I hope will benefit all the people of this province, not just the city and the constituency that I represent.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Eglinton.

Ms Poole: I have appreciated the comments of the member for Beaches-Woodbine. She is a member of integrity and I believe that she truly believes in what she has said, that she does respect local decision-making authority.

But I must correct one thing that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has said and also the member for Beaches-Woodbine; that is, they refer to the local decision-making authority, they refer to the local municipality. In this instance, the local municipality is the city of Toronto. The legislation, the Assessment Act, once it was passed by the provincial government in 1970, devolved authority to the local municipality. That is why this is very different.

There have been only a couple of instances where actually the government has proceeded with market value assessment when it hasn't had the consent of the local municipalities. In one case, which was the region of Sudbury, basically they were bribed out of it by a large donation of money to help them implement market value assessment and ameliorate the impacts. In the other instance, it was Haldimand-Norfolk, and that region had only very small towns that were opposed to the plan.

But there has never been an implementation of the plan at the regional level over the opposition of one of the member municipalities, such as the city of Toronto: 635,000 people, the local municipality, and that's what it comes down to.

So I respect the comments of the member. I would say she had a great threat in threatening to resign, because your Premier doesn't have very many competent people to replace you with.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Markham.

Mr Cousens: On November 5, the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the New Democrats announced that the government would introduce legislation to support Metro council to implement the tax plan. When the minister came into the House to present the government's newest position

on this, he tried to spin the policy position of the government and its reversal by emphasizing that (a) the province was not enabling Metro to implement the full market value assessment, (b) the proposal was an interim plan only, (c) the province would not give Metro the power to implement full market value in 1997 but would work with Metro to develop a tax package that is fair and protects healthy urban centres.

Inasmuch as that was the twist or the spin or the story that was presented by the Honourable David Cooke when he came into the House after your caucus and your government came up with the new position, I'm wondering how you, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine, would react to the way in which your Minister of Municipal Affairs presented the government's position.

Certainly the kind of statements he was making don't reflect the kind of position you have as a member of the government, and by virtue of that I would like you, if possible, to make some comment on the way in which your government presented its revised position.

I think that people have to remember the fact that the New Democrats were historically opposed to this and are now coming in favour of it, and the fact that you're able to stand, which we're glad to see, and have your own position—maybe you could help apologize for the kind of things your own minister is saying.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Downsview.

Mr Perruzza: Very quickly, to respond to some of the member's comments, I respect the member's position in saying that she doesn't support market value assessment. I've always believed that in government there's a fine line and a fine act that we must carry forward, and I think it's very difficult, more often than not, to strike the balance between local, parochial needs and interests with those of a global nature. One of the things we're elected to do when we enter public office under our current electoral system is to represent the interests and needs and wants and desires of our particular communities. Sometimes, when that can't happen within a global framework, within some of the bigger things we have to do, the individual members have to take a particular position, and quite frankly, I've always respected that in my political life. I will continue to respect that and appreciate that kind of position.

Having said that, I'm on the other side on this particular issue and in representing the needs and advantages of my particular community. It would be foolhardy for me not to support what we have in front of us, and although my particular preference isn't this hodgepodge that Metro came up with, I'd be more inclined to support full market value. It's something I thought the Liberals should have represented when they were in office and it's something that in fact they were going to do when they sent back the 1984 plan and asked them to update the year.

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The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I was quite delighted with the minister's statement that she was considering at one point in her

life resigning over this issue. This is certainly showing all of us that she feels deeply about this, but I'm wondering whether she would be able to answer later whether she's actually tried to convince some of her colleagues that that might be an important consideration for us.

She says she's opposed to market value assessment and the Metro plan because, she says, "Toronto has been the economic engine of the country and the impact of this tax would be negative to the core of our city."

How true. But I would only have hoped the minister could have carried on just a bit more and been more descriptive of what this really means when she says "negative impact." I wish she could have drawn for us the picture of the blight of some of the American cities that we see, where there are empty apartment buildings, whole blocks gutted. It's the kind of scene we would have expected her to describe just a bit more, even though I really appreciate the candour of her statement.

Toronto is different. She's right, Toronto is special. The Premier was in the Pacific Rim, in Asia, and all over the place they would have told him that people would love to live in Toronto because it is one of the most livable cities in the world. Why? It's because we've got rich and poor, it's because we've got livable neighbourhoods within this city; that's the reason.

What this would do, according to Jane Jacobs, one of the most authoritative figures in terms of urban living—she says: "This kind of market value assessment is really wrong." She says: "It's a nutty idea. This tax will have the effect of making this city an impractical place, not for the richest part of the population and the most assisted part of the population."

It's a bad situation and I agree with the minister. It is important to have an impact study done for her consideration, and the cabinet's.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Hon Ms Lankin: Don't I get to respond?

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry, that's right. The honourable minister for two minutes.

Hon Ms Lankin: A couple of things were said that I'd like to take a moment and respond to directly. I think I have made my position very clear with respect to my thoughts of the type of property assessment I think would be inappropriate, which is market value assessment.

I also—and I don't want people to lose sight of that—very clearly talked about how important I think the principle of local decision-making and municipal autonomy is and that in some cases, as a provincial legislator, those two issues clash, as they have in this particular issue.

The member for Markham asked me directly to comment on how I felt about the presentation of the issue by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and about the government position on this. Let me say, having I think spent some time explaining to you that I felt part of a process within my own government, within my caucus, to influence the way we looked at this; to express that although I supported local autonomy, I felt that Toronto had a very special case to be made; and to express the fact that I thought there had to be impact studies carried out over the

next number of years and that we had to look at fair taxation across the province and that the impact of the recommendations from the Fair Tax Commission needed to be considered with respect to property taxation and that I didn't want to see 1988, Metro to be able to move ahead and run roughshod over the city of Toronto, that I wanted to be able to have some influence on that by the kind of partnership role the province and Metropolitan Toronto could play together, that I would feel very supportive of the final kind of resolution that my caucus came to and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has presented.

So in fact I think he did a very fine job of explaining what was a compromise between the positions that have been very fundamentally held by members of this caucus who represent ridings that are in the MTA, like Downsview and Yorkview, and members like myself who are from the city of Toronto. It's only in that kind of compromise that we can move head.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Ms Poole: Normally I would begin by saying that I am pleased to enter into the debate today, but in all honestly I can't make that statement. This debate gives me no pleasure, because it's about a scheme that sows the seeds of destruction for a city that I love. Members may say that this is mindless rhetoric, but I can tell you that I truly believe that.

I can tell you that there is no more contentious issue facing Metro Toronto today than market value assessment. To say emotions are running high is quite the understatement. The debate at Metro council has been marked by such hostility and such acrimony that there have been death threats made to councillors and their families on both sides. The chairman of Metro council is wearing a bulletproof vest today.

Recognizing that this is a difficult issue, how can the debate have become so out of touch, so unacceptable that reasonable people have lost all reason? In order to understand where we are today, I believe that first we have to understand where we've been and how we got there. I am regretful that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is not in the House right now, because quite frankly I think this would be helpful to him. His statements have been so contradictory and so convoluted on this that I really have come to the conclusion that the minister does not have a clue what this is all about.

In 1970 the province took over the assessment function from the municipalities for the avowed purpose of bringing in market value assessment across the province. From 1979 to 1985, the Conservative government brought in market value assessment to over 600 municipalities that had requested it. At this time today there are over 700 municipalities that are under market value assessment in the province of Ontario. So the minister says, "See, we're just giving Metro what other municipalities have." I say to the minister, "Wrong," or as my son would say, "Not."

First of all, Minister, if you were here I would say to you, those other reassessments have been at the request of the local municipality. Assessments have been done on a regional basis where the local municipalities had voted in

favour. There have only been a few exceptions, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, such as in Sudbury, where they were given a large amount of money to bring it in, and Haldimand-Norfolk, when they had it rammed down their throats. But again, they were very small towns that were involved. Nowhere has it been rammed down the throats of 635,000 people.

That's what this is all about. It's not a matter of municipal autonomy, as Mr Cooke says. It's about the province taking away the right of the city of Toronto—635,000 people—to have its own plan, a right the city now has. It's about the province instead giving that right and the authority to the regional government; in this case, Metro council.

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You know, when talking about the government's lack of understanding and the minister's lack of understanding on this issue, one of the things I've found to be truly appalling is the Premier's ignorance. Remember, the Premier has represented a Metro riding for a decade, a decade in which this has been one of the hottest topics around. Yet the Premier was quoted in the *Toronto Star* as saying, well, he didn't really understand why the province had to approve the plan. He obviously didn't comprehend that the proposed legislation will take away the right of the city of Toronto to have its own plan, a right the city now has. He really doesn't understand that this is all about the destruction of the city of Toronto and its absorption by Metro.

Just to go back for a moment and look at, specifically, the history of MVA in Metro—

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Give us a history lesson.

Ms Poole: Well, I'm sorry. I say to the member that some of the members need a history lesson because they don't understand what this is about.

Mr Mills: I need a history lesson, please. At half past five, I need it.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Ms Poole: The last general property reassessment in Metro took place in 1953.

Mr Mills: Let's get on with it.

Ms Poole: I'm sorry if the member doesn't wish to know the facts but, Mr Mills, the facts are important.

The last general property reassessment in Metro took place in 1953. At that time, they reassessed using 1940 property values. You may ask why they used property values that were already 13 years old. They had to go back that far to find a period of stability upon which to base the values, which, to digress for just a moment, is one of the reasons the city of Toronto is so opposed to market value assessment: It is the wrong tax for a volatile market such as Metro Toronto. Anyway, back to the history lesson that Mr Mills objects to.

In the 1970s, the Conservative government was merrily rolling along, reassessing municipalities across the province, but they kept backing down from grappling with the largest and most difficult municipality, Metro Toronto, until 1982. In 1982, the Minister of Revenue very quietly circulated a draft bill to Bill Davis's cabinet, a bill that

would force Toronto to accept market value assessment. Roy McMurtry—who, you might remember, was another member for Eglinton—went berserk. I know you're going to say, well, members for Eglinton tend to do that from time to time, and that's probably quite true, but the result was that it killed the bill and the Conservatives backed away from market value assessment, from forcing it on Toronto.

That theme for that government and successive governments then became, "If Metro asks for it, we'll do it." The ball was thrown back into Metro's court. Remember that throughout all this, the city of Toronto has remained and been totally and irrevocably opposed to market value assessment.

In the late 1980s a group of NDP Metro councillors, in one of the most politically contrived and opportunistic pieces of work I have ever seen, came up with a so-called compromise solution. It was a beauty. It was a solution meant to carry them through two municipal elections. They proposed a plan that was based on market value. Properties would be reassessed using 1984 market values, but, lo and behold, there would be no increases for home owners until 1998. All the home owners entitled to decreases would get them immediately.

What a beautiful plan: no increases for home owners; decreases to the home owners who were entitled. Houses would move to full market value at the point of sale. Business—remember, this is NDP ideology, so this is fat cat business—would pay the difference. Typical NDP thinking. Home owners vote; businesses don't. Leave what happens after 1998 up to someone else to solve, and pass the buck.

I can tell you that when this plan came to the provincial Liberal government, this member for Eglinton did go berserk. I and other Liberal city of Toronto members made sure it was changed so that it had to be sent back to Metro council yet one more time. This was the plan that was before Metro council this past summer, but one thing had changed. The provincial government had told Metro, "If you're going to consider this plan, you can't use values that are eight years out of date."

When the figures came out in this past summer, the proverbial something hit the fan. The figures clearly showed that the impact on the city of Toronto was even more devastating. Not only would the vast majority of Toronto home owners be hit with dramatic increases, but small businesses were hammered with 100%, 200%, 400% and 800% increases. The figures were that 11,000 downtown businesses would receive increases of over 100% and almost 8,000 businesses elsewhere in Metro, primarily the suburbs, would also receive increases of over 100%. In my riding of Eglinton, a survey showed that if this plan came in, two thirds of the small businesses would close their doors for ever.

With statistics like these coming out, even the pro-market-valuers on Metro council had to do some heavy thinking. One of the originators of the NDP compromise plan, Joe Pantalone, ran to the hills and voted against his own plan. The NDP plan was in jeopardy of defeat at Metro.

So in a series of mind-boggling 11th-hour compromises, the pro-MVAers came up with a new compromise, compromise, compromise plan. Contrary to what they had promised, Toronto home owners and tenants would be subject to increases, but in their generosity, Metro council proposed to cap the increases at 10%. The kicker: Homes would still move to full market value when sold. Residents primarily, but not exclusively, in the suburbs, who had been promised the full decrease, were then told they would now only receive 50% of the decrease.

Metro magnanimously agreed to cap the increases to business at 25%, phased in over three years. But as I mentioned earlier, remember that this is a 25% increase on top of other hikes businesses would get due to the fact of Metro's spending and other increases. That means that over the next three years, businesses will end up with a 50% tax hike.

Mr Perruzza: What happens to the homes in Metro Toronto?

Ms Poole: How many businesses do you know, how many small businesses do you know, that can survive that kind of increase?

Even with the 25% cap, the statistics are staggering: 41,000 businesses, all small businesses, are facing tax increases of 25% due to market value. About half of these are in the city of Toronto. But I want suburban members—including the member for Downsview, who's now leaving, thank goodness—to take note. The impact on small business elsewhere in Metro is substantial. The number and proportion of suburban businesses facing the maximum increases are: 7,600 businesses in North York are facing the maximum 25% increase. That's 28.1%.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I don't understand. I guess the member was referring to me. Not only am I here in my seat, but I'm listening to every word she's saying, and quite frankly, she's shovelling it so thick all over the place.

The Acting Speaker: There's nothing out of order.

Mr Perruzza: She talks about having her facts straight. She doesn't have one fact straight.

The Acting Speaker: Please be seated. There's nothing out of order.

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Ms Poole: You know what they say about small things and small minds?

Anyway, getting back to the percentage of businesses impacted, this is a very serious subject and it's got a very serious impact on these small businesses. In Etobicoke, 4,700 small businesses will face the full 25% increase—that's 30.3% of the small businesses in Etobicoke which will face that full impact—6,500 small businesses in Scarborough will face the full 25% increase, plus whatever other increases Metro passes on, 28.9%; East York, 1,200, 40.3%; and in the city of York, 1,300 small businesses will face the full 25% increase due to market value. This is nuts.

We are in the middle of the worst recession since the 1930s, with businesses going bankrupt daily, and we are

going to approve a plan that has this devastating impact? If the minister were here, I would say to him, where are the economic impact studies of this plan? Where are the studies of its impact on jobs? Where are the studies of its impact on business? Where are the studies of its impact on the people of Toronto? Answer: There have been no studies of any type.

Can you believe it? This scheme affects the largest municipality in Canada and billions of dollars in taxation, with estimates coming out daily on the devastation it will cause the city of Toronto, and there are no studies of its impact. It's incredible that this minister and this government intend to rubber-stamp it anyway.

The whole plan stinks. I'd like to give you an example. Using 1984 values, the big downtown office towers were to get a 50% increase in their taxes. Yet, lo and behold, when they were reassessed using 1988 values, these same big office towers get a 10% decrease. Mr Minister, I ask you the question, have you bothered to ask why? Don't you suspect this whole thing has been cooked? How can the values change so much in only four years? Has the minister even asked who is going to pay the hundreds of millions of dollars that the movers and shakers who own those office buildings no longer have to pay? Sounds a little suspicious, doesn't it?

This plan is about winners and losers, winners and losers that constantly change. Using 1984 figures, the city of York was a winner; its taxes would go down. All Metro councillors from the city of York voted in favour of the plan. Aha. But then, when 1988 figures were released, a large part of the city of York was a loser. The result? York councillor Mike Colle changed his vote and now votes against market value. North York councillor Maria Augimeri has changed her vote three times. Mel Lastman has changed his vote. NDP Metro councillor Joe Pantalone, I remind you, one of the authors of this plan, voted against his own plan. What a plan and what a crock.

But this minister and this government think it's just fine to approve Metro's plan, no matter how ill conceived and how politically motivated and contrived it is. All they've done is add some bells and whistles to try to appease the suburbs and at the same time to try to hold on to their city of Toronto seats.

But then this minister is famous for talking out of both sides of his mouth. I said it to him when he was here in the House and I say it to him again: Every statement he makes is a glowing contradiction.

First he says: "It is clear that Metro council is responsible for its own deliberations and decisions. The province must respect that this is the responsibility of the local council." Then, in the very next breath, Dave Cooke says: "The legislation will not give Metro council the power to implement full market value assessment in 1997. It will, however, require Metro to seek provincial approval before any significant tax reforms are implemented."

The minister's inconsistency is astounding. First he says, "It's Metro's responsibility, so we're giving them the authority." Then, in the very statement in the Legislature, he says, "However, we don't trust them, so we won't let them have the power in future and we're going to make

them come back for provincial approval." As Mr Cooke is so often fond of saying, give me a break.

The minister has also said, "We won't allow the community to go to full market value assessment after this round is complete." Right on, Mr Cooke. The NDP won't be the government in 1997, so of course you won't have to allow it. Once again you pass the buck.

Mr Mills: Mindreader.

Ms Poole: I'll say to the member for Durham East that you don't have to be a mindreader to figure that out. Anybody of even moderate intelligence could do so.

If this government believes market value would have the dramatic impact on the city of Toronto, as it has said it does, why in heaven's name is it allowing this plan to proceed? Why is the NDP, in its legislation, not forbidding but requiring Metro to pass a bylaw to allow full market value on homes once they are sold? Surely the minister must realize that by allowing Metro to do that, he is ensuring that within the next five years a significant amount of the city of Toronto will be reassessed under full market value.

If this minister and this government had any guts and if they truly cared about the city of Toronto, they would not have given Metro the power to reassess homes at full market value when they are sold. By giving Metro that power, they have sold the city of Toronto down the river. They will be guaranteeing that Metro Toronto will move irrevocably and irredeemably down the road to full market value.

I put the NDP government on notice today that I will be introducing an amendment to ensure that the protective cap will not be removed when homes are sold. The NDP has the power to defeat this amendment, but I say to it, "Do this at your own peril." This government is gutless for not insisting that these homes be protected in the first place. What remains to be seen is if this government is also toothless and lets market value assessment proceed without accepting this amendment.

As a member representing the city of Toronto, I've been steadfast in my fight against market value assessment over the past decade. I am totally opposed to both the method and this plan. I recognize that there are areas of Metro where the residents have been paying taxes that are too high for many years and want relief. They deserve relief, but what market value would do is completely reverse the scales, to where they would be paying extremely low taxes in the suburbs and extremely high taxes in the city of Toronto.

That's not what we want to accomplish with property tax reform. We just don't want to change the unfairness so that a new set of players is unfairly treated. We want true property tax reform which treats everybody fairly. What we're saying is not no to property tax reform, but no to market value assessment.

Members in this House have heard me talk on many occasions about why I am opposed to market value assessment. It is a location tax which unfairly penalizes people for the simple fact that they live in the city of Toronto. It is the wrong system for a volatile market such as Metro

where land prices vary enormously from one end of Metro to another. It is not based on the amount of services used, nor is it based on the income of the people who use these services. It encourages urban sprawl by deeming that residents living in spacious homes in suburbs pay significantly less than people living in crowded housing in the middle of the densely populated city core.

Market value assessment attacks the very livability of our city. Jane Jacobs, who is one of North America's foremost authorities on the life of urban areas and cities, has warned that MVA will make this city an impractical place. It will leave Toronto with only two large population groups: the very rich and the very poor who are subsidized. She says that market value will undermine small businesses and the jobs they provide. What we will see is the death of our small businesses, the same way they have died in American cities, leaving urban rot and a devastated core. As north Toronto Metro councillor Anne Johnston has said so eloquently, it's the wrong tax at the wrong time in the wrong place and it is killing our space.

The accusation has been levied that the city of Toronto is not paying its fair share. I would like to set the record straight. Of the \$4.4 billion in taxes produced in all of Metro, the city of Toronto taxpayers produced \$1.8 billion. That means that with only 29% of Metro's population Toronto paid 42% of every tax dollar spent by Metro. With regard to education taxes, the city of Toronto paid out to suburban schools \$316 million over and above what we used for our own schools. In fact, Toronto subsidies have kept suburban tax bills artificially low for years.

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I believe that for the NDP government to adopt this plan in such unholy haste is not only irresponsible; it is obscene. The minister can talk all he wants about municipal autonomy, but I can tell this government one thing: The city of Toronto and the people in Toronto have long memories. We will remember if this government agrees to let Metro council run roughshod over its largest member municipality. The people in Toronto will give their answer to a government that is just willing to wash its hands.

If this NDP government truly cares about the city of Toronto, it must demand that real impact studies are done. Only this government has the power to do this. Only this government has the power to turn back this bill. The rule changes passed by the NDP majority guarantee that the government can pass the legislation on its own timetable and in any form it wants.

As I mentioned, I have been fighting market value assessment over the past decade. When I was a government member, I said to the Premier of the province at that time, a Liberal government, that I would stand in my place and vote against any legislation brought in to impose market value assessment on the city of Toronto. I will do no less as an opposition member. This is a bad plan, an ill-conceived plan. I wish I could say I'm surprised that the government is washing its hands like Pontius Pilate, but I guess I really am not.

I would have liked to speak longer on this particular bill, but unfortunately this government changed the rules in June of this year, so I am limited to 30 minutes. The

government also changed its rules to bring in closure, so just as it did on Bill 40, the government has the power to bring in closure and ensure that this bill is only in this House for seven days total, seven days total in this Legislature on one of the most contentious bills that have been before Metro in years.

Our House leader, in order to get a deal to have public hearings, had to consent to a quick hearing on second reading and third reading. The NDP has given itself this power by changing the rules. As an opposition member I feel helpless. There is nothing I can do to stop this bill, because the ball is firmly in the government's court and it is choosing to lob it back to Metro. It is playing games. It is playing games by sending it to a committee which has a Liberal Chair. But people are not stupid; they realize that every committee in this Legislature is dominated by the NDP. The NDP has a majority of committee members on every single committee, including the one these public hearings are sent to.

I repeat: This government has changed the rules and it has the majority to ram this through by Christmas. The question is, does it have the conscience to stop it? Does it have the conscience to take a second look at this? Do they at least have the courage to support an opposition amendment to protect the homes in the city of Toronto that will go to full market value on the point of sale?

This government has six members representing the city of Toronto. Four of them are in cabinet, two of them are parliamentary assistants to the Premier. These six people did not serve the city of Toronto well, and we heard a very good speech by the Minister of Health on how this was a difficult issue for her. I believe what she said because she is a member of integrity. But I can say to the members I'm not commenting on the others. I don't know how they feel because they haven't told us.

I am wondering whether these members are going to have the courage to rise in their places and vote against this legislation for the protection of the city of Toronto. I hope at the very minimum that these six NDP city of Toronto members will encourage their government to accept an opposition amendment, an amendment I propose to put forward, which would buffer the city of Toronto homes and other homes throughout Metro that would be impacted on the point of sale.

We've talked about how this issue is so volatile and how it has raised so much acrimony. It has raised such hostility that the council of the city of Toronto is looking at a way to secede from Metro. When a local councillor first raised the issue several years ago, quite frankly he was laughed out of the room. But feelings have changed. Businesses are feeling very vulnerable, home owners have expressed their total opposition to this plan and their fears of what may come in the future, and the city of Toronto council is now united not only in its opposition to this plan but in its disgust with Metro council and what it has imposed on the city of Toronto.

I urge this government to rethink its decision to rubber-stamp this plan. You cannot treat the city of Toronto that lightly. Ask the six members who represent you in the city

of Toronto, because that's the message they will be taking back to their constituents.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Turnbull: The comments made by my colleague the member for Eglinton are certainly comments I would agree with. One of the great problems with the new rules of debate is we don't get a chance to fully expand on the themes that we introduce. I really would like my colleague to talk about the fact that the city of Toronto conservatively produces 20% of the revenue of this province, and the effect on businesses that this tax is going to have.

In the last round when the member for Beaches-Woodbine was speaking, I really didn't come away from that discussion with a very clear feeling as to where she stood. She was saying she was against market value reassessment and yet she was going along with the caucus solidarity and, yes, I believe that she fought because I believe her to be an honourable person who does have integrity.

But the fact remains that we now have a government which has an official platform that was against MVA. There's nothing the government can do or say to take away from the fact that its official, binding party position is that it is against MVA. They have never retracted that and candidates in the last election ran on the platform that they were against MVA.

Why are you breaking your word? Is this just to go in the same category as An Agenda for People where it was absolutely a fraud on the electorate? The fact is that all of these fine words are written down but really have no relevance to the way that you're going to represent the people you get elected to represent.

Now the electorate has a reasonable expectation that what people say in an election is what they're going to do.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Perruzza: One of the member for Eglinton's opening statements in her speech was that she was going to talk about the facts today. She proceeded to reiterate a list of a series of events related to market value assessment. But quite frankly when I heard her talk, I questioned the validity of many of her facts.

In fact, she talked about what happened with market value in the past, how Metro council was asked to make a decision based on 1984 values and how her government, because of her insistence, decided that it wasn't going to proceed. What in fact her government and the Liberal government of the time did was ask Metro council not to proceed with 1984 values, but to upgrade it to 1988 values. Quite frankly, at the municipal level—and I'm sure that the member from Etobicoke will reiterate many of these comments—the scuttlebutt was that the Liberals were going to move to full-blown market value, all the way up, all the way down, even across the board.

So for the member for Eglinton to stand in her place and talk about the role of Joe Pantalone, one of the architects of the deal, one of the architects who tried to build mechanisms into the plan to offset some of the increases that would be faced by many of the city of Toronto residents—in fact, that's what he tried to do. He tried to develop a

compromise, because he read the writing on the wall that what the Liberals were going to do was full-blown market value. They weren't going to protect anybody. They weren't going to build in any protections, whether you lived in the city of Toronto or whether you lived in the suburbs.

Ms Poole: That was a lie.

Mr Perruzza: The member for Eglinton may react in any way she likes, but those are the facts.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further questions and/or comments?

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Mr Ruprecht: I want to congratulate the honourable member for Eglinton for her remarks. Of course, she's right on when she asks the right questions: Where are the studies on the economic impact of this plan? Where are the studies of the impact on jobs? Where are the studies of the impact on business? Where are the studies of the impact on the people of Toronto?

The question is, why has this not been done? It is possible perhaps that the findings of these kinds of economic impact studies would paint a very grim picture indeed, the kind of picture that I think the majority of people of Metropolitan Toronto really understand in their gut.

When I look at the survey that was done, reported in the *Globe and Mail* on October 22, 1992, it says: "Most people living in Metro Toronto expect market value assessment to be bad for business and jobs, according to the survey.... Seventy-five per cent of those surveyed said they think a plan to implement market value assessment for Metro property taxation would lead to business closings and 70% said a loss of jobs would occur."

We have with us the mayor of Toronto and some of our councillors. They've been sitting here quite patiently and quietly, listening and hoping against hope that some of the members would change their minds.

Today, I'm delighted to see that the Premier has actually arrived, because he indeed will be the kingpin and major decision-maker on this issue. Having been in Asia just recently, he will remember that country after country and city after city have told him they too would like to live in this city of Toronto. I ask the Premier today, why would people right across Asia tell him they would want to live in Toronto? The answer is simple: This is a livable city worth preserving.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable member's time is concluded. Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Stockwell: There are obviously some strong feelings on each side of the House with respect to this particular adopted position by the government, but let me say that the strong feelings have been come by very honestly. It was this government that campaigned, I believe since 1984 and maybe previously, on no market value assessment. They weren't in favour of market value assessment. If you check the minutes of your previous conventions, those were the kinds of things you adopted as a party. I knew full well that the New Democrats were opposed to market value assessment when we debated this subject locally.

Although being one in favour of market value assessment, I guess the difficulty across this floor is that it's very difficult to nail you down as to where you stand, and that's the problem the public has. The public, who believed you were opposed to market value assessment, supported you, yet find today that you're in favour.

As one who is in favour of market value assessment, I stand here today and say: "Holy smoke, they've now changed their minds. Do I trust them that they're going to carry it forward?" Well, I don't trust them. I don't think my constituents trust them, because they couched it in such a way that they've taken the horse and made the camel.

The difficulty is much the same as trying to nail jelly to the wall as to what the position of the NDP is on any given issue when in government.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): He's never had a hammer in his hand.

Mr Stockwell: No, I haven't had a hammer, the member suggests. I shake your hand. I think I have one, though.

When we in the opposition stand up and try to determine where you're going to go with this particular issue, nobody believes or trusts your position, because you told us you were firmly opposed, and now today, without blinking an eye, you're firmly in favour.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Eglinton has two minutes to respond.

Ms Poole: I would like to respond in the two minutes I have. I would like to start by saying that the statements made by the member for Downsview are absolutely incorrect; totally, totally incorrect.

Bob Nixon said publicly that he would not impose market value assessment on the city of Toronto. He said he would not impose it on the city of Toronto and he did not do so. The government at that time had the mandate to do so if it chose, and it did not. So what he speaks is a lot of nonsense.

The member for York Mills talked about the contribution of the city of Toronto to this province. That is a very strong contribution, but I can tell you that right now the city of Toronto is bleeding. The city of Toronto's guts are bleeding dry.

People have always thought of the city as a fat-cat city with a lot of money, with full employment, with strong businesses. Well, I can tell you that right now our businesses are hurting, we have record unemployment, and people in the city of Toronto are suffering.

This plan would bring about urban rot for the core of our city. Whatever you may say and whatever you may believe, there are those of us who love our city and who know why it was voted number one by the United Nations. If this plan goes through, if market value goes through, our city will suffer.

So I say to the NDP government, because you're the ones who are in control of this, I say to the Premier, a Metro member, think hard before you support this plan. The city of Toronto is counting on you.

The Acting Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 34, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

JOHN PIPER

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): The member for Ottawa West has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Premier concerning the briefing of the Premier by John Piper on the Grandview issue. The honourable member has five minutes to present his views and the honourable Premier has five minutes to respond.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Of course, under standing order 34(a), a member who is dissatisfied with a question during question period can file a notice of dissatisfaction and have this five minutes at the end of the business day in the Legislature to ask the question and, hopefully, have the person to whom the question was placed attend and respond, hopefully more fully.

I appreciate the fact that the Premier is here tonight. I can say, incidentally, that he obviously gives more attention to Ottawa West than Mississauga West, because the last time the member for Mississauga West in our Liberal caucus had a 6 o'clock show, the Premier did not show. But this is certainly an important matter and I appreciate the fact that he's here.

By way of very simple background, we know that 9 or 10 months ago issues arose concerning the Grandview Training School for Girls in which certain allegations were made concerning the staff at that institution. Allegations were made by a particular individual about the conduct of the Minister of Energy of the NDP government when he worked at that particular institution. As a result of those allegations, the Minister of Energy in the NDP government resigned. That was some 9 or 10 months ago.

That brings us to the current issues before the Legislature, the issue of John Piper and why he resigned. John Piper was working in the Premier's office at deputy minister level, making over \$100,000 a year, with responsibility for communications: centralized government communications and communications from the Premier's office. Mr Piper was forced to resign because he engaged in a smear campaign of the person who made the allegations against the Minister of Energy.

I asked a question today concerning that particular incident, and I was very careful to point out, by way of preamble, that the Premier must have had a working relationship with Mr Piper in his office. There must have been a way that they communicated, by way of briefing notes, by way of regular meetings. The Premier has a briefing book. There must be certain information Mr Piper would want to get into the briefing book for the Premier in order that he can deal with issues of the day, important issues such as the resignation of a minister of energy.

1810

With that background, I asked a very specific question today in the Legislature of the Premier, and I was careful of my question and careful of my wording, so much so that I actually read the question, which I will read again. I

would hope that the Premier would listen very carefully to the words:

"Premier, my question is this, and it is not pre-empted by any OPP investigation: On the issue of any communication strategy—and I'm not only referring to the issue of the criminal record—on the Grandview-Ferguson affair, were you ever present when John Piper discussed this matter, or did you ever personally discuss the matter with him or did you see any briefing notes on this issue generated on Piper's instructions? If so, what did you see or hear and who was present?"

The Premier provided a one-word answer. He said, "No."

I couldn't give the response in the House, but my question that comes to mind is: We had the resignation of a minister some 9 or 10 months ago. We have this spin doctor, deputy minister level, resigning over the particular minister in question and the allegations that were made. How is it possible that no information flowed from this deputy minister of communications in the Premier's office to the Premier, either verbally or by way of a briefing note, that he could say no to that question? To me, it is absolutely inconceivable.

If it is true, then the Premier is showing the ultimate of incompetence, where he hires a person to advise him on communications, pays him well over \$100,000 a year and comes in here and says he is taking no advice from this individual on how to handle the resignation of a minister or how to handle in fact the resignation of Mr Piper himself.

I say I could not possibly be satisfied with the one-word answer the Premier has provided.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I appreciated very much the opportunity to listen again to a question from my friend from Ottawa West.

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): No, you don't.

Hon Mr Rae: My good friend, my old friend and colleague in arms and in battle, in by-elections and elections, my friend from northern Ontario, who says, "No, I don't": I do. I'll tell members, and I'll speak very candidly with members.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Comrade in arms?

Hon Mr Rae: The member for Mississauga West is expressing surprise. History is history. We all know that was on one of my previous trips to Asia in which that particular political event took place, but there you are.

I say to the honourable member, look, I know what the nature of question period is and the nature of a political debate is. I fully expect to receive precisely the same degree of charity as I demonstrated when I was in opposition.

Mr Mahoney: We've got a long way to go, Bob.

Hon Mr Rae: I see the member for Mississauga West shaking his head, and I think he and I both know why. I will say to the member for Ottawa West, when I was speaking in Asia I used to say to people, "The success of Asia is not a miracle and it's not a conspiracy," and I want to say to the honourable member, sometimes what takes place is in fact what takes place.

I said to a couple of people the other day, "How long will it be before we get the 'gates' in terms of the comparisons in this and that and the other?" Today it is Nixon, the comparison, tomorrow it'll be Genghis Khan and then it'll be among the four or five great events in history.

I just want to say to the honourable member as clearly as I can, as I answered earlier and as I've said very clearly, the first I ever heard of this interview or discussion by Mr Piper was when I returned from Asia to Vancouver on Friday.

The other question he has is, was there any grand communication strategy with respect to Grandview that was discussed with me? The answer to that clearly is no. I would just say to the honourable member that the Grandview inquiry is carried out by the Ministry of the Attorney General. Anybody occupying the post of Premier, anybody in this province, fully understands and appreciates the complete independence of that whole process with respect to this issue.

I would say to the honourable member that I fully expect all kinds of allegations and statements to be made. I would only say to members of the opposition that it's precisely because of the seriousness of what took place on

Friday, and of what it represents in terms of what should not be done by any government or by anybody in any government, that I must confess I come into the House every day since my return, listen carefully to what's said and say to myself that sometimes the excessive rhetoric with which it's expressed I think undermines the very seriousness of the mistake that was made on Friday.

I say to the honourable member as clearly as I can that the government regrets profoundly what took place. We don't condone it in any way, shape or form. It does not in any way correspond to my sense of public service or my sense of what should be involved. I want to say to the honourable member that this is the case, those are the facts as I know them and understand them and those are my feelings as I can express to him as clearly as I can, and that will continue to be the view I express from this desk and from this chair because it is the case.

The Acting Speaker: There being no further matter to debate, I deem the motion to adjourn to be carried. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1818.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 25 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 25 novembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 25 November 1992

The House met at 1334.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I want to bring to the attention of the House a success story called My Brother's Place. My Brother's Place was named the Metro Toronto food bank's agency of the month in September 1992 and has many other endorsements from organizations, an NDP cabinet minister, a former NDP cabinet minister and many, many individuals in the social services community. Indeed, it is seen as the last and only resource for many who would otherwise fall through the cracks.

My Brother's Place is home to those who are making the very difficult adjustment from long-term institutionalization to life in their own community. Without a review, without an investigation, this six-year success story now finds itself struggling, with very, very little support in either human or program resources. The cuts have been so deep that six former full-time workers and 12 part-time staff now find themselves unemployed. A system of peer monitoring is being used to fill those lost positions.

In spite of this insurmountable difficulty, the board, the residents and the community at large continue to support one another. "Draconian" is the only word those who know My Brother's Place can find to describe this slash operation to a success story.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRES

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. It concerns your government's abandonment of community information centres in Ontario.

This province's 74 community information centres, such as Information Orillia, are the only autonomous, non-profit organizations that collect and distribute consolidated information in the province of Ontario. Among their services, community information centres distribute provincial information on behalf of every ministry, from Agriculture and Food to women's issues, and have special access programs for groups in their communities that have difficulty getting information, such as volunteer language interpreters and seniors services.

Community information centres know their communities and they know their clients have complex problems. They know exactly what human service information they require.

Community information centres are cost-effective. Their services cost \$25 per hour, compared to \$100 per hour for other information providers such as Bell Canada and the Ministry of Health.

In 1991, Information Orillia received 10,059 inquiries, of which 37% were referred to all levels of government. To October 21, 1992, Information Orillia had received

9,881 inquiries, of which 2,992 have been referred to all levels of government. Inquiries about general community services and consumer needs rank high on Information Orillia's statistical records.

Minister, I urge you to support the development of community information centres as key community-based information providers and reinstate a comprehensive provincial funding program to enable them to continue to provide the necessary service.

LANDFILL

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): Last Friday a blow was delivered to my constituents in Pickering that was so intense, the shock has not yet begun to set in. The Interim Waste Authority dropped a bomb on the community that has started a tidal wave of outrage. I share this outrage. It's not fair. Pickering has done its share.

I am speaking about the IWA release of the short list of candidate sites. Four out of the five sites chosen for a Durham landfill site are all in Pickering, not to mention that right on the Pickering-Markham town line there looms a spot that may be the site of a huge Metro-York dump. Potentially, if sites T1 and M6 are chosen, Pickering will have to endure 1,000 acres of dumps that will receive garbage from Durham, York and Metro.

This is outrageous. The town of Pickering has already had to put up with decades of other people's garbage. Not only that, it has a nuclear power plant and a sewage treatment plant. Most importantly, the people of Pickering have never recovered from the scars of the expropriation of 20 years ago. That was when the federal and provincial governments took 40,000 acres of prime agricultural land and have left it to go fallow.

It's because of the years of inaction by government after government that these lands are now the target of the IWA. All five sites I have mentioned are provincially owned. As PACT has so correctly put it, "The IWA is practising the three Cs—close, cheap and convenient."

I vowed to support the people of the town of Pickering. I don't believe that IWA must stand for "It's Whitevale Again." I don't believe it's Pickering's turn again. To the mayor, Wayne Arthurs, the board of the mayor's task force and the members of PACT, Pickering Ajax Citizens Together, I pledge to put an end to the uncertainty and allow the people of Pickering to get on with their lives once and for all.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): The Minister of Natural Resources is sending out a confusing message to the communities and industries in northern Ontario that depend upon Ontario's forest resources for their economic survival. At the same time, he is creating an environmental deficit of huge proportions.

While the minister claims to be developing a sustainable forestry framework, the budget for reforestation

within the MNR has been gutted. Compounding the problem, the minister is holding off making fundamental decisions regarding next year's reforestation activities. For example, we are nearing the end of November and we do not now know how many tree seedlings the ministry will fund for planting on crown land.

1340

This decision should have been made and communicated to groups such as the private tree seedling growers association over two months ago. These growers remain in economic limbo until the new year as a result of the continued dawdling of this government.

Similarly, it is clear that forest tending is not a priority for this government. A decrease of over 30,000 hectares in forest tending has occurred since the NDP has taken office. The implications of this trend are severe for industries and communities which depend upon the economic spinoffs which the tending of this important resource provides.

While funding cutbacks are affecting the reforestation industry in Ontario in a tangible way, there is an increase of 11% in the salary-benefits budget and a 23% increase in the "information resource and policy budget" of this ministry. This is unacceptable.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I'm appalled by this government's insensitivity to the desperate needs of those who are trying to care for relatives with autism.

I recently received a letter from a woman who is trying, along with her family, to care for her 24-year-old twin brother who has autism. She writes, "Our family has to be tensed up to deal with emergency situations that can happen at any time, such as the adult running away, becoming upset in the car and smashing the windshield or windows or becoming violent at home and hurting other people."

This family cannot obtain a full psychiatric and neurological assessment for him. Although they live less than an hour's drive away from the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, which has a dual diagnosis program capable of such an assessment, they live outside the hospital's catchment area and there is no similar program servicing their community.

Despite this family's valiant and best efforts to keep their son at home, they were recently forced, because of exhaustion and stress-related health problems, to place him in a schedule 1 facility.

My colleagues and I have raised the issue of the inadequacies of the special services at home program recently. I want to tell the Premier that the extreme difficulties being experienced by this family are the result of this government's failure to ensure that this critical and important program is adequately financed and administered. I urge the government to show compassion and provide assistance.

POLICE BRAVERY AWARDS

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): On the way in to Queen's Park this morning, I passed by a church and it had a sign outside highlighting an upcoming sermon. The sign simply said, "It is easy to be brave from a distance."

Today I and my government colleagues pay tribute to Sergeant Robert Higginson and Police Constable John Stemmler of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, both of whom recently received the 1992 Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, Ontario's highest award. Both received a specially designed medal in the shape of a cross, one of the traditional symbols of valour.

Unlike the sign I mentioned, both of these individuals demonstrated courage, superlative bravery undertaken without concern for personal safety, but not from a distance.

On August 13 of this year, Sergeant Higginson tried to block the escape route of two bank robbery suspects, who were very heavily armed with guns and explosives, by standing in front of their van. Seeing that Higginson was in danger of being shot or run over, Constable Stemmler drove his car in front of the suspects' van, preventing it from moving. The suspects then turned their loaded guns on both of the officers and only surrendered after a third officer approached the suspects from behind and ordered them to lay down their guns.

The residents of the Waterloo region thank both officers for their commitment, courage and excellence. If I may coin a phrase, without question, in the Waterloo region our cops are tops.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Members of the Legislature have been receiving letters from people who have children and others who are mentally challenged in their families. I'd like to quote briefly from one of those letters.

"I have a special interest in writing to you concerning the mentally handicapped. They are threatening to cut back \$5 million from the sheltered workshop system. We have fought long and hard to get our children out of institutions and back into our community. Please don't let us go backwards because of lack of funds and send our children back to the institutions."

Societies are judged by others by the manner in which they treat their most vulnerable citizens and surely among the most vulnerable are mentally challenged individuals of all ages. As this government spends millions of dollars on questionable self-congratulatory advertising and public opinion manipulation, as the provincial government lavishes funds on its unpopular ideological agenda, thousands of mentally challenged people of all ages may see their financial resources diminished.

I've always believed that we, in this assembly, are elected to defend those who cannot defend themselves, those who are not the privileged and powerful in our society. In this light, I urge the government to abandon its threat to reduce funding to sheltered workshops for mentally challenged people in our province. I urge us to do that, and the Premier and his minister to do that, in light of all of the letters that have come in and for the sake of those children who are most vulnerable in our society.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Today I would like to advise the Minister of Community and Social Services of the despair she has created in my riding by cuts to programs for disabled children and developmentally delayed adults.

How can she explain to Debra and Alf Mann and their daughter Susan, who have had help cut from 20 summer hours to 10, or to Gina and Doug Jeffries and their daughter Rebecca, who have been cut from 15 summer hours to 10? What should Alma and Charles Gilbert and their daughter Pat do now that they have been cut from 20 summer hours to nine, or Georgina and Pat Mulhall and their daughter Anita, who were used to 20 hours and now must make do with six in the summer months and none during the school year? Marjory Shorthouse's grandson, Christopher, now gets only 15 hours instead of 28, while Wells Barlow, who took early retirement to care for his stepson, Gordon, has now had Gordon's seven hours cut off completely.

Each of these families, as well as Marg and Gord Pallister, whose 10 hours have been cut to six, understands the need for fiscal responsibility, but they do not understand why you spend almost half of your budget on a small percentage of people in institutions at the expense of those living at home.

Are these families in Grey and thousands like them all over the province to assume that this government no longer cares about them? Are they to assume that this government has changed its position and now wants to keep developmentally challenged children locked up in institutions?

They have asked me to ask you to spend your budget in a fairer and more equitable manner. They have asked me to ask you to remember the thousands of disabled kids who live out in communities among caring families and friends who need your help.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): During the past two and a half years the province of Ontario has been in the stranglehold of the worst recession since the Depression of the 1930s. Our NDP provincial government has, through the \$700-million anti-recession program, the \$2.3-billion Jobs Ontario program and the \$1.1-billion Jobs Ontario Training program, created jobs and maintained jobs.

While these positive steps are helping in our recovery, we cannot, on our own, provide the push that it requires to make Canada and Canadians prosperous again. We need the private sector and the federal government of this country to come on board in these initiatives. While the private sector is coming on board, Prime Minister Mulroney and the federal government are not.

After the referendum vote, Prime Minister Mulroney captured headlines by saying that now is the time to concentrate on the economy. To date, Prime Minister Mulroney has been attending one \$500-a-plate fund-raising dinner after another. While he has been building his Conservative Party's campaign coffers, he has done nothing about our economic woes.

It's time that Prime Minister Mulroney immediately call a first ministers' conference on the economy and come on board in helping us in our recovery.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): First, I would invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon, and seated in the members' gallery west, a former long-standing member of the assembly and, indeed, a former minister of the crown from the riding of Huron, Mr Jack Riddell. Welcome.

COMMISSIONERS OF ESTATE BILLS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I beg to inform the House that the Clerk has received a report from the commissioners of estate bills with respect to Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, which reads as follows:

"Presuming the allegations contained in the preamble of the bill to be proven to the satisfaction of the House and on the understanding that the word 'express' be deleted from section 12 of the bill, we are of the opinion that it is reasonable for the bill in that amended form to pass."

Accordingly, pursuant to standing order 86(e), the bill stands referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

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STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY
AND RESPONSES

LIMITATIONS REFORM

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I am very pleased to announce today that I will be seeking first reading of a new Limitations Act. The Supreme Court of Canada, in its landmark decision last month on limitation periods in incest cases, noted the "chorus calling for reform in this area of limitations law" and called Ontario proposals "welcome developments."

Specifically, these reforms will remove all limitation barriers to civil lawsuits by victims of sexual assault if the assault took place in a relationship of trust or dependency. In the case where a limitation period has already expired under the present law, the new provisions will apply if the defendant committed the assault, knowingly encouraged it or permitted his or her agent or employee to commit it.

In other types of sexual assault or in the case of physical assault in a relationship of intimacy or dependency, there would still be a limitation period, but it would not apply unless the defendant could show that the victim had for at least two years been fully capable of taking legal action and had not done so.

These provisions also implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Sexual Abuse of Patients where the abuse is committed by a health care practitioner. In addition, the Minister of Health will be tabling this afternoon legislation aimed at eliminating sexual abuse by health care professionals, which also responds to many recommendations of the task force.

In addition to the reform of limitation periods in abuse cases, this bill effects comprehensive and dramatic reform

of limitations law in Ontario. It will have an impact on virtually every civil lawsuit in our courts. Ancient and complex rules that trap laypeople and lawyers alike will be replaced by a single two-year limitation period that will not start to run until the plaintiff knows or ought to know the material facts of the claim. In most cases, plaintiffs will have up to 30 years to discover these facts.

In cases involving health care practitioners and building designers and contractors, where the material facts are discovered relatively quickly, claims may be barred after 10 years. This will provide much-needed certainty to groups providing professional services who now face the prospect of indefinite exposure to legal claims. Under the present law, they are particularly vulnerable to problems of maintaining insurance, preserving records and shifting standards of practice over the whole of their career and even into retirement.

As a general rule, limitation periods will not run while the plaintiff is under the age of majority or is incapable of commencing proceedings because of a physical, mental or psychological condition.

While measuring the limitation period from the time of discovery of the material facts will help those whose cases are now barred prematurely, the reality is that most people know the necessary facts almost immediately. In these cases, the two-year limitation period will ensure that defendants will not have to wait long to find out if they are going to be sued and will be able to get on with their lives more quickly than before.

I will not go into further detail about the bill for the very good reason that the major principles have been before the public in the form of draft legislation for over a year. The principles themselves emerged from the report of a broad-based consultation group. The response to our extensive public consultation on the draft legislation has been strongly supportive of the consensus that has been reached.

I should add, however, that our consultations did identify two areas requiring ongoing review.

Limitations reform comes in the midst of a long-term project to reform defamation law. Accordingly, as an interim measure we will retain the structure of the current limitation periods for lawsuits against newspapers and broadcasters, with the option of moving to a two-year limitation period when the defamation law reform process is completed.

In the area of environmental harm, we have not yet included any exemptions to the 30-year ultimate limitation period. When the environmental bill of rights proceeds there will be an opportunity, if it is thought appropriate, to exempt the proposed new right of action created under that bill. We will also renew our discussions with groups interested in environmental matters to see if further exceptions should be made.

We particularly welcome comment on the defamation and environmental issues, along with comments on the bill generally.

This bill frees us from the constraints of 300 years of antiquated legal rules and marks the beginning of a new era of fairness and justice for everyone involved in civil litigation.

Once again, I would like to thank the Limitations Act consultation group, whose membership included representatives of the Ontario women's directorate, the Canadian Bar Association, persons with disabilities, building designers and contractors, hospitals, doctors and municipalities. I would also like to thank all of those groups and individuals who commented on the consultation draft bill.

SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIENTS

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I will be moving introduction of the Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act, 1992, today.

The amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act being introduced today are aimed at eliminating sexual abuse in health care.

These reforms are, I think, a very important step forward towards making our province a safer place to be. People seeking health care have the right to expect that the treatment they receive from a health care provider will be proper and not improper, that it will be caring and not damaging.

The mistreatment of patients by health professionals in the form of sexual abuse is never acceptable and it must not be tolerated.

The very tough penalties to be written into the law are intended to deter health professionals from abusing their power and breaking the relationship of trust they have with their patients.

The law must also assure anyone who becomes the victim of sexual abuse that they have effective recourse.

Through the college's disciplinary process the new law gives victims more power vis-à-vis the health professional against whom they are lodging the complaint. We hope this will restore the faith in the disciplinary process for victims who complain and that, as a result, the disciplinary process itself will become less daunting.

I would like to note that the Limitations Act that will be introduced today by the Attorney General, Howard Hampton, will mean that there will be no limitation period on victims who may choose to seek recourse through the courts for the sexual abuse that has taken place in a relationship of trust or authority.

The overall effectiveness of the Regulated Health Professions Act, including sexual abuse prevention, will be monitored by the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council. The advisory council, a new innovation under the RHPA, has the critical role of making sure that the legislation serves the public interest. Made up of people who do not work in the health professions or in the civil service, it should be meeting for the first time early in the new year and taking on this challenge.

On October 8 the Ministry of Health released its position paper, Taking Action Against Sexual Abuse of Patients. During the 30-day consultation period that followed we heard presentations from victims of sexual abuse, we held round table discussions with them and with health professionals, and we also received numerous written submissions.

We have seriously considered the arguments that were put forth by consumers and health professionals in the writing of these amendments that I will be tabling today.

One of the arguments made was against our proposed concept of three levels of sexual offences, each with different penalties. Victims said this could lead to a trivializing of incidents of sexual impropriety. Remarks, behaviour or acts of seduction that might be categorized as sexual impropriety could be just as damaging to the patient as sexual violation, they said. It was noted that all sexual abuse is a violation of a patient's rights.

Health professionals said the three levels of offences would make proving of charges more difficult, and they wanted simplification.

Mr Speaker, I want to now quickly run through some of the highlights of the act being introduced today and ask you to keep in mind the importance of the factor that this will apply to all 24 regulated professions.

As a result of the consultation, some of our proposals for action outlined in the position paper of October have changed. I'm proposing these amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act:

There should be one level of sexual offence, not three as earlier proposed, and that it be called sexual abuse. Three categories will be defined in law to cover sexual relations, touching of a sexual nature and behaviour or remarks. When it is found that sexual intercourse or other defined acts of sexual violation have occurred, the discipline committee will be required to revoke a health professional's certificate of registration for a minimum of five years and impose a fine of up to \$35,000.

Penalties for other acts will not need to be specified because the full range, from reprimand to revocation of registration, will be available to the discipline committee. On this point, we want to establish that whether a patient has been subjected to wrongful behaviour, wrongful words or wrongful acts, it is all serious and it is all abuse.

1400

We are proposing that any health professional who has reasonable grounds to believe a colleague of any regulated health profession has committed any act of sexual abuse must report it to an appropriate college. A failure to report will be a ground of professional misconduct.

If it is a patient who has disclosed the alleged sexual abuse, he or she will be asked to consent in writing to be identified in the report. It's a protection for that kind of privacy.

In the area of mandatory reporting, we intend to consult further with health professionals on extending the mandatory reporting provision to other forms of professional misconduct that would endanger the life or safety of a patient and to any conduct indicating incapacity or incompetence.

The RHPA will also require health professionals to make a report when they've learned of the sexual abuse of a patient through psychotherapy or counselling that they may be providing to another health professional. On this point, I have grappled with the very serious concerns of balancing public protection and the need to encourage health professionals who abuse patients to seek treatment. Incentives will be written into the legislation which I hope will encourage the individuals to seek the treatment they need.

We are proposing that the college disciplinary committees be given power to grant intervenor status to any complainant whose good character, proper conduct or competence is in question.

We support the involvement of the complainant in the hearing process in every reasonable way. On this point, I want to point out that the task force report asked for more from government, and on that I'm asking the Attorney General to inquire into what the role of the complainant should be in a disciplinary process and whether there should be any guaranteed rights. I believe that this issue should be addressed but viewed in a broader context of the existing law.

I am therefore asking the Attorney General to consider referring this issue to the Ontario Law Reform Commission so that it can make recommendations vis-à-vis all professional discipline hearings, including health. It is of concern to me that the existing disciplinary process may be discouraging persons from coming forward with complaints about health professionals.

We are proposing that there also be disclosure by defence counsel of the identity of experts and the substance of their opinions and the professionals that they will rely on at the disciplinary hearing.

Under current law, prior to a disciplinary hearing, the college, that is, the prosecution, must disclose the elements of its case to the accused. In practice, most colleges provide full disclosure. The professional, on the other hand, is under no obligation to disclose any part of his or her case.

This disclosure by the defence will help the prosecutor to prepare for any accusations towards the victim's actions or character that could come up during the hearing. This will help reduce the victim's sense of being traumatized again.

We propose that programs be established in each of the 21 colleges to finance and regulate funding for the victims and to help them pay for therapy and counselling. Health professions that enjoy the privilege of self-regulation must be prepared to accept the financial responsibility of compensating the victims of abuse by their members.

The issue of the compensation fund, how it would be financed and what it would provide for, was discussed extensively during the consultation by both victims and health professionals. I expect that debate to continue and I will move that the amendment act be referred to standing committee at second reading.

In closing, I want to thank all of those who participated in the consultation process. I want to thank the CPSO for initiating its task force. I want to thank Marilou McPhedran and all the members of the task force for the tremendous sterling work they've put into their recommendations to the college and to government.

I want to thank the victims of abuse who came forward and exposed their wounds and talked to us about the very real experiences they had and helped in many ways to guide us in the directions that we are taking today. I believe that was a very painful process. I believe it was painful for them to experience those feelings and to tell those stories again, but I hope it was also part of the healing

process and that by seeing government take direct and swift action, it will also contribute to their healing.

Without their help, the help of the Task Force on Sexual Abuse of Patients, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the ministry staff who have worked hard and long on this as well, I do not believe this process would have been initiated, almost two years ago now, or that in all likelihood we would be here today setting out on the road to passing this ground-breaking legislation.

LIMITATIONS REFORM

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I want to compliment the Attorney General for advancing this particular initiative. He always does extremely well when he's advancing the initiatives that were undertaken by Ian Scott. This legislation, in fact, the consultation process and the reform were initiated by Ian Scott and completed by this Attorney General, and I want to compliment him for it.

I also want to compliment David Cooke, the member for Kitchener in the last Parliament, who advanced a private member's bill on the Limitations Act. He was extremely concerned about victims' rights and their ability to have access to justice through the courts. I think he increased the profile of this issue and had a significant effect on this legislation as it came through the system.

I do want to say that this legislation does open up access to justice for many people. It makes technical improvements to the legislation which will improve credibility within the justice system and credibility within the legal profession. I think it's a very good initiative from that point of view.

However, it does address a number of issues affecting a number of people. It is very technical in nature, and so I urge the Attorney General that when this bill passes second reading that it go to public hearings across the province for two reasons.

I think there is an educational process to be accomplished by going out to public hearings across the province and I believe that, because it is very technical in nature, members of the legal profession and victims' groups across the province should have an opportunity to advance amendments and to gain a better understanding of this legislation.

I do want to compliment the minister on advancing this particular legislation, and we look forward to dealing with it in clause-by-clause and committee.

SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIENTS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): In responding to the statement by the Minister of Health, I think it's fair to say we all recognize that trust between patients and health care professionals must be a very fundamental element of that professional-patient relationship.

On October 8 the Minister of Health released a discussion paper which presented the government's first response to the McPhedran task force report and also to the College of Physicians and Surgeons' own review. We've very pleased to see that the minister has responded in such a quick fashion to the report.

However, we do remain concerned as to whether there was sufficient time for the consultation that was necessary. We are considering all the issues associated with what will be a new reporting and disciplinary requirement for all the self-governing health professions. Was a one-month consultation period enough time to properly do that? We all want to be certain that these initiatives will work, particularly having the goal of zero tolerance. We are concerned that hasty decisions may hinder their acceptance and the practical way in which the regulations are implemented.

One thing I urge the minister not to forget is the role of the survivors. They urgently need and we must urgently encourage them to be part of the consultation process. I know they have up to date but, quite frankly, when we're looking at this, the survivors do not have the same resources as the professional groups do. They do not have the type of time, they do not have the staffing and they need this assistance, they need to be part of this consultation process and they must be heard. I know the minister will act on this.

The minister has outlined the mandatory reporting requirements to the college of all three of the categories of sexual offences: impropriety, transgression and violation. We certainly support the recommendations for mandatory reporting of sexual transgressions and violations. However, we share the concern of the College of Physicians and Surgeons with respect to the reporting of impropriety and we've joined with the college in urging the minister to reconsider this decision.

We are somewhat dismayed to see that the minister is raising issues in the policy that are not associated with the sexual abuse issues which have been considered. Placing incompetence and incapacity on the table, for example, by the back door, as it were, is in our view misplaced zeal. There should be further discussion in this regard and the working relationship between the newly regulated professions and existing disciplines should be more completely established before these protocols are put in place.

The minister is right to want to put these issues on the table, but we believe that she's somewhat premature in doing so. We do commend the minister on her initiatives and hope she takes our comments into account.

1410

LIMITATIONS REFORM

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Dealing with the Limitations Act, it's a good thing that we're finally getting to some reform of this area. But I will tell you, there's no panacea for reforming this area because there are always going to be people who are going to miss limitations. If you condense limitation periods, I suspect there are going to be even more people who are going to miss them.

However, it's a good thing to have a standard limitation period. It's a good thing that we no longer will have the favouritism to certain areas such as the crown seven-day notice periods, six-month Public Authorities Protection Act issues, and I think that will be a benefit to those practising law and their clients.

SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIENTS

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm pleased to rise and respond to the Minister of Health's statement regarding the issue of sexual abuse of patients. Minister, I find it extremely ironic that during this week you would be trying to take the moral high road and restore the tarnished image of your government by making this announcement today. But your making this announcement allows me to remind you that the moral high road is achieved through action, not words, and the Piper debacle speaks volumes.

Many people have worked long and hard in this province and in this country to ensure that the past conduct of victims cannot be used against them in legal proceedings except in very limited circumstances. Yet Pipergate shows the extent to which your government is willing to go to smear a woman who claims to be a victim of sexual abuse.

In your remarks in today's announcement, you said: "People...have the right to expect that the treatment they receive from a health care provider will be proper and not improper, that it will be caring and not damaging."

Minister, I suggest you get your own house in order. Your government's attempt to make public Judi Harris's criminal record flies in the face of any measures that you have announced today. I don't know how you can remain part of a government that on the one hand advocates victim rights while at the same time openly and very directly further victimizes the victims of sexual abuse.

Now we learn that many victims and former inmates of the Grandview Training School for Girls are afraid to come forward. Your government's actions have been outrageous and today's announcement shouldn't have been made in light of the fact that Judi Harris has not received an apology from John Piper.

You should be ashamed to be part of a government that allowed Mr Piper and his dirty tricks campaign to further victimize women who have been very courageous in coming forward with complaints of sexual abuse.

I think that before you made today's statement you should have asked Mr Piper earlier today to apologize to Judi Harris. It is ironic that you can try to take the moral high road today while your government is so badly tarnished by Pipergate.

I haven't had the opportunity to review the specific legislative draft you'll be tabling in the House this afternoon, but I do want to say that I hope before the committee hearings start—and I hope those hearings are delayed until later next year so that health care professionals and groups have the opportunity to review the draft legislation—you'll take a hard look at the message your government has sent out and the damage John Piper has done.

Today you tell health care professionals that they have to get their houses in order, that they have to get their acts together. I say that there's a little soul-searching to be done on your side of the House before you lecture health care professionals.

Again, Minister, I don't know how you could get up today and make this announcement. It's an important announcement, but its importance and its relevance are lost in light of the actions of your government. Again, you should be ashamed. I would be ashamed to be part of that

cabinet. Backbenchers in that government and all cabinet ministers should be ashamed.

John Piper must be made to apologize to Judi Harris, or victims of sexual abuse will have no confidence in either the announcement you made today, Minister, or any further actions taken in the area of sexual abuse by your government. I demand an apology. Later this afternoon you should talk to John Piper. He must apologize if your government is to have any credibility in this area.

REPORT ON RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It was five weeks ago that a report was due before the House. The report on the Race Relations and Policing Task Force that came out today was long awaited. It was delayed by the Premier's office, I'm sure, and delayed by the Solicitor General. An important report like this came out today and not one statement by the minister about something that has been waited for.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member for Scarborough North—I appreciate his point of interest. There is not anything out of order. As the member knows, there is nothing in the standing orders to compel ministers to make statements.

Mr Curling: Could I give the minister an opportunity—he's here, the report is here; it's five weeks late—to get unanimous consent to make some comments on this very, very important report.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the minister to make his statement? No, I heard a no.

ORAL QUESTIONS

JOHN PIPER

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question is for the Premier. Mr Premier, I have been reliably informed that the Ontario Provincial Police do not have in their possession the document which Mr John Piper offered to the Toronto Sun last Tuesday. Mr Premier, can you confirm this fact?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Absolutely not. I am not going to comment, on a daily basis, nor do I think the member should, on any kind of basis, on the police inquiry. I have no idea, and should not have any idea, with respect to the ongoing conduct of the police investigation.

I would suggest to the honourable member that in order to maintain the integrity of the process—and I say this to the honourable member—he himself should be very wary of commenting on a daily basis in terms of what he has heard with respect to the ongoing investigation.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I think the honourable member really has to consider what he is doing. He is directly asking the Premier of this province—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —to comment on a police investigation as it is ongoing. Nothing could be more improper—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —and the honourable member should know that in his heart of hearts. In his heart of hearts, he should know that.

Mr Conway: At noon today the information officer for the Ontario Provincial Police told my staff that they could not confirm the whereabouts of the central document in the Premier's much-vaunted police investigation. Is the Premier telling this House that he is not aware of the fact that at noon today the police are telling us they cannot confirm the whereabouts of the document which Mr John Piper offered the Toronto Sun?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say very directly to the honourable member, let's get this in some perspective. The OPP are carrying out an investigation on an ongoing basis. I have no idea what conversations took place between an information officer and members of his staff.

All I will say is that the statement he has relayed to us is substantially different from the statement that led into his first question, substantially different. First of all, he says it isn't there. Then he says they can't confirm.

I can only say that I think it is highly improper for the honourable member to be asking questions with respect to an ongoing police investigation. I think that raises very basic questions about his tactic and his strategy. I have no intention as Premier, I don't think any member should have an intention, of interfering in any way, shape or form with an ongoing police investigation. Nothing could be more improper than for a Premier or indeed, I would argue, for any other member of the Legislature to so interfere. Nothing could be more improper.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Renfrew North has the floor; his final supplementary.

1420

Mr Conway: On the basis of the information which I have received from the information office of the Ontario Provincial Police, I believe that the provincial police do not have the central document at issue in this whole question.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Conway: Let me ask the Premier this question. If the police do not have, as I believe they do not have, the central document—

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Government House Leader): Even though you have no evidence.

Mr Conway: I have the evidence of a conversation with the information office of the Ontario Provincial Police. If the government, as I have asked on two previous occasions this afternoon, can indicate to the contrary, I'm quite prepared to accept that information.

But let me ask the Premier this: The Premier has said that he has undertaken, or launched, or caused to be launched, a police investigation into this matter. The Premier, as a lawyer, will know that if the provincial police do not have that document which Mr Piper offered to Ms Dawson of the Toronto Sun, there can be no police investigation, for there will be nothing to investigate. Our lawyer Premier must surely understand that. Would you not agree, Mr Premier, that in the absence of that document there can be no meaningful police investigation?

Hon Mr Rae: This is preposterous, this is truly preposterous. The member is building fiction upon fiction upon fiction, he is building baseless allegation upon baseless allegation and thinks he's making an argument. This is a commonsense question. The information was public on Friday morning. As soon as that information was made public, the matter was referred to the OPP. The OPP have complete carriage of an investigation. It is absolutely preposterous to suggest that the honourable member is somehow going to be, on a ticker-tape basis, sitting at his desk getting the information from the OPP saying, "How is it going today?"

What does this say? What does this say about the new standards of the Liberal Party of Ontario? They're the ones who are preaching standards.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Even on the basis of a simple basis of law, your question is without any foundation whatsoever.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I want to return to my main point. On the basis of the information I have today, I believe the key document is not in the possession of the OPP. That's what's at issue and that document is missing, and if the government can tell me I'm wrong on the basis of evidence, I am quite willing to stand corrected.

My next question on the basis of the missing key document: I want to go back now to last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Friday morning, the Premier's appointed director of communications and good friend, John Piper, resigned in disgrace. Very shortly thereafter, the Attorney General's department launched a police investigation. Later that day, Friday, the Premier, returning from his Asia tour, said at an airport press conference that he was shocked and appalled and did not condone the action.

Two and a half days afterwards, on Sunday evening, under cover of darkness and in the company—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Could the member place his question, please.

Mr Conway: Two and a half days after the Attorney General's department caused the police investigation to begin, and with no reference to the police as to what they were about to do, the disgraced John Piper, in the company of Bob Rae's chief of staff, returned to this building in the middle of the night and removed substantial papers and other information.

I ask the Premier, in light of what the Attorney General's department did Friday morning, in light of what you said Friday night, how was it possible for that to have happened? Particularly, how was it possible for Mr Piper to be accompanied by your chief of staff, Ms Morrison, to allow Mr Piper to remove from this place in the middle of the night all kinds of potentially very relevant information to any kind of inquiry?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: The member opposite is building an argument that's based on hot air. It started with hot air and it's ending with hot air. He's making all kinds of allegations, all kinds of representations, that bear no relationship to the facts. The OPP was given carriage of this matter on Friday. Legal advice was sought from the Deputy Attorney General with respect to the removal of certain of Mr Piper's personal effects from the office.

He's now making allegation that all kinds of government documents were taken, which allegation is quite false. He describes it as under the cover of darkness, in the middle of the night. Mr Piper made no secret of the fact that he was here, that he was coming to take away his personal effects, and that's what he did, under close supervision. He signed in and he signed out, and he took out information under the advice of the Deputy Attorney General. So the suggestion here that there's something else going on—I mean, he starts his question on that assumption. The honourable member is a man of great imagination, but I suggest to him that his imagination is getting carried away. I would also suggest to him that in all fairness to the Ontario Provincial Police, he ought to let them do their job—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —which is precisely what I intend to do.

Mr Conway: Let's just recall a couple of facts. It was quite clear in this Legislature yesterday that as of yesterday, Mr Rae did not know what happened in this place on Sunday night. Mr Rae, the Premier, reported to this House yesterday that according to Ms Morrison, no log was kept of any of the information or materials removed by Mr Piper on Sunday evening. So we know, according to the Premier himself, buttressed by evidence from his chief of staff, that no record was kept of what was removed from this place on Sunday night.

Mr Premier, my question is, how will the Legislature, how will Judi Harris, how will the people of Ontario ever know what was removed Sunday night by the disgraced John Piper just hours before the police investigators could come and begin their work? How will any of us, including Judi Harris, ever know what was removed Sunday night?

1430

Hon Mr Rae: I want to advise the honourable member, in the light of his first question, that I've just been told that Superintendent Bob Guay, who is the official spokesman of the OPP, actually said he would not confirm

whether or not they had the document because he would not comment on the status of an ongoing investigation. Is the honourable member going to apologize for the premise of his first question?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr Conway: My question remains, Mr Speaker. Let there be no mistake where the burden of responsibility lies in this regard. It wasn't my chief of staff or my communications adviser who somehow accessed confidential information from the justice system and was willing to use that against a defenceless citizen. That didn't happen in my office. That happened in the office of the Premier of Ontario.

My question remains: What went out of this place on Sunday night? What was in those boxes? How can the Premier assure the Legislature and the people of Ontario, when hours before the police could come, Mr Piper was somehow allowed, under the supervision of Ms Morrison from his own staff—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): A political appointee.

Mr Conway: —a political appointee—to come to this place and remove that information?

The Premier talks about the police. Why weren't the police along with Ms Morrison Sunday night to supervise the removal of those papers and things? If the Premier is such a slavish devotee of police inquiries, why were not the OPP alongside Ms Morrison Sunday night to supervise the removal of those papers?

Hon Mr Rae: Quite simply, because of the advice of the Deputy Attorney General, and the advice he received was that that was not necessary in light of the fact that all Mr Piper was doing was removing his personal effects.

I just want to say to the honourable member that I'm taking responsibility for what's going on. When is he going to start taking responsibility for the questions he's asking and for the phoney premises on which they're based? Maybe he'd better start paying some attention to taking responsibility for some of the allegations and the questions he's asking in this House.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have a question for the Premier, and I think one could legitimately question whether indeed the Premier is taking responsibility for his trusted confidant's actions.

The Premier has indeed condemned Mr Piper's actions, but I think it's important to understand what Mr Piper was attempting to do. One could fairly draw the conclusion that his actions were part of an orchestrated effort to rehabilitate the reputation of the member for Kitchener, Mr Ferguson. One part of that effort was the unusually well publicized elevation of Mr Ferguson to parliamentary assistant in the Ministry of Transportation. Another part, apparently, was Mr Piper's effort to smear the complainant in regard to allegations against Mr Ferguson.

Mr Premier, can you indicate if you have initiated an internal review to determine what happened in respect to the Piper matter and what other actions Piper took in regard to Mr Ferguson's problems, and if not, why not?

Hon Bob Rae: I have made the decision—it's a decision I've taken on some reflection and for which I take responsibility—that an internal review must wait for the outcome of a police investigation, and I'll tell the member very directly why: for the simple reason that any investigation carried out by me or members of my staff would be running parallel to and at the same time as that of the police inquiry.

My own view has been that it's better in terms of the interests of justice and of ensuring that there's no hint or suggestion of any interference of any kind by me or by anyone else on my staff; that any information that is received simply be directed to the police, and that no other inquiry should be launched or made by this office or by me.

That's a decision I've made. I've made it after reflection, and upon reflection, I think it's the wisest course.

I can assure the honourable member, of course, that once the police investigation has been completed, I will take whatever further action is necessary to indicate clearly to the public, to everyone concerned, our administration's and my administration's commitment to fairness, to integrity and to dealing with and getting at the root of this problem. That's the way in which I've decided to handle it and I think on balance it's the correct way to handle it.

Mr Runciman: The police investigation—
Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville has the floor.

Mr Runciman: The police investigation is focused on one specific concern and that's the use of Ms Harris's court records with respect to release into the media. That's all it's looking at. I think there are other concerns that the Premier has a responsibility to deal with. Some of these, I believe, are that he should be inquiring as to whether Mr Piper spoke to a crown attorney, to Mr Ferguson's lawyers, to anyone else connected with the case. What about other people in the Premier's office? Were they involved in this effort to rehabilitate Mr Ferguson's reputation?

It seems incomprehensible that a senior adviser to the Premier has engaged in an effort to smear a woman who has been victimized over and over again throughout her life, and the Premier is not sufficiently concerned, apparently, to try to determine how widespread, how far-reaching that effect has been within his government, and especially within his own office. How can you justify your own failure, Premier, to determine just how far the rot extends within your own government and your own office?

Hon Mr Rae: The honourable member says he knows what the police investigation is going to focus on and he knows what it's all about. I would say to the honourable member, I don't prejudge what questions the police are going to ask. I don't think anyone should. I don't think anyone should prejudge the outcome of any police investigation in any way, shape or form. I think that's inappropriate.

He then goes on to say that somehow what we're doing reflects a lack of concern. I say in all honesty to the member, I have wrestled with this thing—I think everybody who knows me knows that's the case—in terms of what is

the best way, the most effective way, to ensure that we will get to the bottom of whatever is there and that we will deal with it in the fairest way possible to everyone concerned.

My judgement has been that, initially, it requires a police investigation. It requires a thorough review by them and, as I say, if there's further action to be taken, it will be taken.

But I would suggest to the honourable member that even some of the things he suggested would be very inappropriate being launched by me at this particular moment and at this particular time with regard to what the police are doing. That is my very strong view with regard to the suggestions he's made. I don't think it would be appropriate for the carriage of justice in this province for the Premier to be dealing with the question in the way he's suggested at this particular time, precisely because there is a police inquiry going on.

1440

Mr Runciman: To be polite, that is so much hot air and nothing else. I have spoken to Inspector Guay. I spoke to him today, and he is focusing solely on Mr Piper's meeting with a representative of the media and his offer to release court documents to that representative of the media. That's what they're looking at to see if there was indeed any violation of the law in respect to his activities.

What I'm talking about is a much broader investigation, a much broader inquiry into what happened in respect to a variety, perhaps, of officials within your own government and your own office in respect to the apparent efforts to rehabilitate Mr Ferguson's reputation.

I believe of all of the blunders and misconduct that we've witnessed over the past couple of years in respect to ministers and aides of this government, this is undoubtedly the most serious, because it involves allegations of abuse of power directly from the Premier's office. It's beyond the realm of possibility that a trusted senior adviser to the Premier would engage in this kind of activity unless he thought it was in accordance with something his Premier would want done.

The Premier says his critics are out to lunch, and I say to the Premier that he's the one who's been out to lunch and continues to be out to lunch. He hired Mr Piper, he's the head of a government where a senior political appointee in his office attempted to smear a female victim and he's the individual standing in this House today refusing to undertake an investigation into the extent of the rot in his own office.

The Speaker: Could the member place a supplementary, please.

Mr Runciman: I remind the Premier that his office isn't a private one; we're paying for it. Taxpayers are paying for it to the tune of almost \$3 million. The people have a right to know. Will the Premier today commit himself to a full inquiry of activities in his government and his office surrounding the Ferguson affair?

Hon Mr Rae: With due respect, I say to the honourable member that if he's suggesting, in light of all that he said before in preparation for the question—and I think it is contained in the question, so let him make the allegation.

If he's saying that this is something I wanted to have done—is that what he's saying? I heard him say that.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Yes.

Hon Mr Rae: If he's saying that, I've known the honourable member since I got here 10 years ago, and I say to the honourable member that his suggestion—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: This is very clear. I just want to say to the member that his suggestion is profoundly offensive to everything that I believe in and stand for in public life. The idea that I would condone or support or in any way approve of what took place is completely wrong and completely false. I think I've indicated earlier that what took place is unacceptable. It does not in any way correspond to what I would support or agree with or condone in any way, shape or form, and I think everybody who knows me and knows anything of what I've stood for in my 15 years of public life would know that's the case.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Parry Sound.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): We know what your speeches were like in opposition. We know exactly what you stand for: power at any price.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Parry Sound has been recognized.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Premier, I think we're dealing here with a question of responsibility, and I think it is just that simple. Pardon us if we on this side of the House and the media are slightly confused about what ministerial responsibility is and isn't in your government. I have several very direct questions to you, sir, as the Premier. Who hired Mr Piper? Who brought him on to the public payroll? To whom does Mr Piper report? What was his job description, and what was his salary?

Hon Mr Rae: I think the honourable member will know that Mr Piper had an order-in-council appointment, which, needless to say, has been revoked effective November 20; that he reported both to the principal secretary in my office as well as to me and that this was well known; that he had responsibility on an ongoing basis for the overall communications work and effort of the government, and his salary is set within a range that's the range of deputy ministers, and I don't think there's any question about that.

I would say to the honourable member, in anticipation of perhaps some future questions, I accept my responsibilities to deal with a situation which I find to be completely unacceptable, and that's exactly what I'm doing. I think I also have to deal with it in a way that shows a degree of respect for due process and a degree of respect for the independence of the police. I would have thought this is something the honourable member would appreciate and understand. It's not an easy thing to have to deal with. I just don't think you can run three or four parallel investigations at the same time.

Mr Eves: The Premier's asking us and the public to believe that Mr Piper acted totally independently, totally

on his own in this matter; never discussed his actions with anyone, with no assistant. He didn't discuss his actions, as you just said, with your principal secretary, to whom he's supposed to be reporting, as you just said.

Mr Piper was responsible to no one in your office. Do you not think that, at the very least, the person to whom Mr Piper is supposed to report is just as responsible for Mr Piper's actions as he is and that person should step aside, pending the police investigation?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say directly to the honourable member that this matter is under review by the police with respect to Mr Piper's action. I think it's very clear that the decisions that have been made by him are ones I do not condone or support, and I think it's very important that the police investigation be allowed its independence and that respect be paid to that.

I would say to the honourable member, let's not pre-judge anything with regard to what took place or what didn't take place. That has to be determined initially by the police. As I say, if further inquiries are required or further reviews are necessary, I will do whatever I think is necessary to get to the bottom of a situation I've found to be quite unacceptable.

Mr Eves: There are two different things here. The police investigation is one thing. I presume the only reason you'd have a police investigation is to investigate some sort of criminal activity. That has nothing to do with ministerial responsibility. We have seen your government and various ministers in your government try to get off the hook of ministerial responsibility time and time again.

We saw a Solicitor General whose constituency assistant wrote a letter to a justice of the peace. We saw a Minister of Correctional Services who should have known what was going on in his ministry, but didn't. What happened to those two people? Nothing happened to them until you decided to politely shuffle them aside in the next cabinet move. Yet we have a Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations who appears as a Sunshine Boy and he gets turfed immediately. We have a Minister of Health who indirectly and inadvertently mentions a confidential name and she has the class to step aside. We have a Minister of Northern Development who deliberately smears a doctor's reputation and then admits that she lied. She gets to stay because she has the famous dad.

Now we have responsibility here, but this time, sir, with all due respect, the responsibility is yours. Are you going to accept it or not?

Hon Mr Rae: If the member is asking—I think he's saying directly—I think the member for Bruce was raising it the other day, saying that there should be an election called instantaneously and that should be the response. I will say to the honourable member, we've taken the steps. I took the steps and I'm taking the steps that I believe are necessary to ensure that the right thing is done and that the right thing happens.

I would say to the honourable member, I indicate very clearly how I feel about this issue and the steps I intend to take to deal with it. But I would say to the honourable member, that's the course I have set. There's other business upon

which this government is engaged and upon which this province is engaged and I'm preoccupied with those as well.

I've set a course with respect to the police investigation. Let that investigation take its place with respect to what has happened. As I said to the member, if anything further needs to be done, it will be done. That's the direction we're taking.

The Speaker: New question. The member for Renfrew North.

1450

Mr Conway: Accepting that any investigation—a police investigation, a legislative inquiry, a judicial inquiry—will only be as good as the information that inquiry can obtain, I want to come back to Sunday night and I want to ask the Premier once again about the conduct within his departmental office, which is the highest office in this province.

Mr Premier, having regard to what you said on Friday night about your disgust at what Mr Piper had done, having regard to what the Attorney General's department had done earlier Friday morning in terms of causing the police investigation to begin, how was it possible that your chief of staff could have come back to this place Sunday night with the disgraced Mr Piper, neither one of whom bothered to call the OPP or the justice department to tell them what they were about to do—how was it possible for Ms Morrison, as your chief of staff, to come here Sunday night and allow the withdrawal of papers and things that will clearly bear on any inquiry?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm going to just say to the honourable member that his first question that he asked today was based on a false premise. It was based on a conversation which he says his staff has. He says this is his hard information and this is his revelation. We then hear from Inspector Guay saying that of course he couldn't confirm or deny, because it's the policy of the OPP not to comment on an ongoing investigation.

The honourable member for Renfrew North didn't have the courtesy, and still doesn't have the courtesy, to stand up in this House and say: "The premise of my first question was quite wrong. I apologize to the House for having given the impression that I knew something that in fact I don't know." I would say to the honourable member that he's done it again, because he stated in the preface to his question that there was no contact at all with the justice department.

I have indicated in this place in answer after answer that Miss Morrison indicated very clearly that she spoke directly to the Deputy Attorney General, that inquiries were made with respect to what was the appropriate thing to do and what was the way to do it. She followed the advice that she was given, Mr Piper left with documents and a clear memo is left to file with respect to what took place.

I would say to the honourable member that so much of the premise, so much of what he is saying and so many of the allegations he is making are without any foundation whatsoever. It's time he took some responsibility for the

quality of the questions he's asking, quite apart from his concern about anything else.

Mr Conway: I can assure this House that I did not come here this week planning to be questioning the leader of the government about this kind of misconduct in his office. I want to be very clear. On the basis of my conversations with officials at the OPP, I believe that as of noon today the Ontario Provincial Police did not have the key document. Let there be no confusion in anyone's mind about what I believe in that connection. If I am wrong, I will be pleased to be shown that I am wrong.

The information here is absolutely essential, and I ask you and all reasonable members to think about what we're being asked to believe and accept. A high official in the highest office in the province has committed a grave misconduct, and two and a half days after he left and a police inquiry began he was allowed, in the company of the Premier's top aide—

The Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr Conway: —to come to this place and remove boxes of information without anyone telling either the police or the justice department that he was going to do that.

How, in this world of Shelley Martel and John Piper, did this happen? How could this have happened, Mr Premier? Don't you understand that your response to date, a very limited police inquiry which, as the member for Leeds-Grenville said, is not going to deal with the questions of conduct in the Premier's office, is a wholly inaccurate response to the questions of public morality and private conduct in the highest office in the province, namely yours?

Hon Ms Gigantes: What was the question?

Hon Mr Rae: I heard a mountain, a torrent of rhetoric. I heard a series of allegations and level upon level and higher and higher platitudes of rhetoric. I did not actually hear a question with respect to what he said but I would say to the honourable—

Interjections.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm sure he says there was one. Maybe somewhere in the interstices of whatever it is that he said we will be able to distinguish a question. But I would say in response to the honourable member, and I say it really in connection with what I said yesterday, that I take this issue too seriously to take him very seriously at all with respect to what he's asking.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): My question is for the Premier. Premier, today you hide behind the OPP investigation and you won't answer questions because an investigation is going on. I understand that on Friday you called in the OPP to perform this investigation. On Sunday night boxes of documents were taken out of Mr Piper's office. What I ask you very specifically is whether the OPP were contacted before anyone went into Mr Piper's office to remove anything. Was the permission of the OPP given to do that?

Hon Mr Rae: I can tell the member directly that the Deputy Attorney General was contacted with respect to what was appropriate conduct.

Mr Harnick: My question was specifically, was the OPP contacted? You were the one who called in the OPP on Friday. What I say to you, Premier, is, who the hell is the deputy minister? He wasn't running this investigation. The OPP were. For you to have called anybody in or permitted anybody to take those documents is tampering with evidence. I put it to you, Premier, that somebody in your office is guilty of obstructing justice if that's what happened. I put it to you that this investigation had better deal with that aspect.

Hon Mr Rae: The member has just made an allegation. I'm sure there'll be lots more before we're all through. If you've got an allegation to make, I say to the honourable member, you know how to do it and you know where to go. Say it outside. Say it outside and make it very clear, if that's what you're saying. I know the honourable member, and I have a certain degree of respect for him. I just would say to him very directly that if he's making an allegation with respect to me or somebody working with the government—

Mr Harnick: The facts lead to that allegation.

Hon Mr Rae: Oh no, you're not. Now he's not. Now he's withdrawing it. No, no. You can't have it both ways.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: You can't have it both ways.

Interjections.

Mr Harnick: One minute you rely on the deputy minister and one minute you hide behind the OPP. Which is it?

Interjection: Say it outside.

Mr Harnick: I just may say it outside.

Interjection: Say it outside.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Why not say it outside? It's a fact. You let Piper into his office, he's got the evidence, and that's a fact.

The Speaker: Order. Certainly, if we all went outside it would be quieter in here.

Mr Mahoney: Well, let's go. Why don't we all go? We're not doing anything in here.

The Speaker: But with a measure of restraint perhaps the member for Willowdale would have an opportunity to pose his supplementary.

Mr Harnick: By way of supplementary—

The Speaker: No, I just about gave something away. That was apparently your supplementary.

Interjection: Oh, let him go ahead.

The Speaker: He's had one supplementary.
New question.

1500

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. During constituency week, on November 12 I had a town hall meeting in the township of Thurlow, and Edith and Wilburt Jeffs—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I can't hear the question. The member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings.

Mr Johnson: As I was saying, my question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. On November 12, during constituency week, I had a town hall meeting in my township of Thurlow, and Edith and Wilburt Jeffs came to me with a very tragic story.

They told me of how they had invested \$130,000 in some stock that might be familiar to some members in here, like Denison and Campeau and, tragically, because of very bad information given by their financial services broker, they lost that money, \$130,000, their life savings.

I would like to ask the Minister of Financial Institutions, do Mr and Mrs Jeffs have any recourse to recapture any of the dollars they lost as a result of very bad information given to them by the financial services broker?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions): Unfortunately, although the member's question is a very important one and a serious one, currently in Ontario the Ontario Securities Commission is responsible for the regulation of the investment sector.

The securities commission has the ability to suspend or cancel the licence of a brokerage firm or salesperson and to forward information to the police around a police investigation, around any matters of a criminal nature that might be uncovered in its process of regulating a brokerage or a salesperson.

But in terms of the question of compensation itself, the losses suffered by people from the operations in the stock market and the loss of value in stocks which they've purchased, those are things they would have to pursue in the courts, through civil remedy, in terms of the present system.

Mr Johnson: In talking to Mr and Mrs Jeffs, I found out that this problem isn't unique, that the problem of bad recommendations, bad information given to potential investors by financial services brokers, is not unique to their particular problem of losing their \$130,000 life savings. In fact this is widespread.

I was wondering if the Minister of Financial Institutions could tell me if there's any legislation pending. Are there any changes to current legislation that would give them more security in their investments?

Hon Mr Charlton: The question that the member raises is also an important one. We have received some recommendations from the Ontario Securities Commission and are proceeding to develop legislation and regulations that will give the securities commission more effective enforcement mechanisms in certain circumstances to deal with situations like this.

Unfortunately, the only protection for loss, for compensation of loss, is the industry protection fund, which deals with the actual insolvency of companies themselves. The actual losses around investments made are not protections which are covered by that fund.

The only protection in that respect that we're considering that is already part of the system is the civil remedy protection. We're trying to beef up the system in terms of the OSC's ability to in fact ensure the appropriate operation of the marketplace and of brokerages and salespeople out there.

JOHN PIPER

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): My question is to the Premier, concerning Will Ferguson, the member of the government who was forced to resign as a result of the allegations of Judi Harris, a member who is still subject to an OPP investigation, a member who, incidentally, about three weeks ago was appointed a parliamentary assistant, with an increase in salary of over \$10,000: some message to the victims, some message to the justice system that has to investigate that matter.

Mr Premier, my question relates to his involvement with John Piper. Can you confirm to this House whether Will Ferguson had any discussions with John Piper about the campaign to smear Judi Harris? If you cannot confirm it, will you ask Mr Ferguson into your office this afternoon to ascertain whether he had any communication with Mr Piper relating to the smear campaign?

As a parliamentary assistant in your government, he holds a position of trust, a position of responsibility. You have an obligation to ascertain the involvement of Will Ferguson, who is the subject of this particular matter. Please, Premier, come clean.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I say with all respect to the member and I just say to him very directly, I am coming clean. I say to him, of course we all must do that. That's exactly what I'm doing.

I've made the decision—I explained it in an answer to the member from Leeds—that I will not launch inquiries of members with respect to anyone. I would say to the honourable member it's my judgement that it is not appropriate for me to do that at this point and I would say to him that I have to await the outcome of any inquiry.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Chiarelli: With all due respect, the Premier's answer is incredible. You have a member of your government, a parliamentary assistant, who is the subject matter of a promotion and a smear campaign, both of which took place at the same time: the smear campaign to his accuser, and you personally promoted him. The optics are very bad, Premier, in terms of some sort of orchestrated strategy.

But the issue is this. Will Ferguson is at the heart of this. He's a parliamentary assistant. The two crown attorneys in Owen Sound have denied responsibility for providing the criminal record. The person who had access is Will

Ferguson's lawyer. Will you ask Mr Ferguson if his lawyer or anybody on his staff provided that record to Mr Piper?

It's critical and has nothing to do with the OPP investigation; it has to do with how you manage your government and how you manage your parliamentary assistants and your backbenchers. Please come clean, Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: I would say to the honourable member that it's precisely because of my respect for the independence of the police and for the need for them to make their inquiries and for them to deal with it directly that I've made the decision that I have.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Carleton. Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I have a question of the Premier as well. Mr Premier, you and I are elected to this Legislative Assembly. I'm a member of the Legislative Assembly. You are a member of the government. I am responsible to my constituents for certain matters as an MPP. You are responsible to the people of Ontario as an elected member of the government. Where does the time come for the responsibility to the people of Ontario for Mr Piper's action? Who is responsible to the people of Ontario for Mr Piper's action?

Hon Mr Rae: I would say to the honourable member that I think I answered his question when it was asked in its previous form by the member for Parry Sound. Mr Piper did something which was in no way, shape or form condoned by me or by this government and there is now a police investigation into what took place.

I would say to the honourable member that I think the public of Ontario knows how strongly I feel about this matter. I think I've indicated very clearly and very publicly how strongly I feel about this matter. That is the basis upon which I am acting and that is the basis upon which I am reporting to the House and answering questions in the House with respect to what took place.

Mr Sterling: Unfortunately, it leads one to draw the conclusion, therefore, that as long as a minister of a government or a minister of any of the government ministries is not aware of what the civil service or the people who work for him might or might not do or might or might not have said, he is not responsible. Am I interpreting your vision of ministerial responsibility correctly?

1510

Hon Mr Rae: My vision of the responsibility of the Premier is to answer the questions that are put to him in this House, to answer to the people of the province, to be accountable for decisions that are made, decisions that are not made and to respond when mistakes are made, as they have been. I think that's the nature of the parliamentary system, that's the nature of cabinet government and that's the nature of political life today.

I've made very clear that I don't find what took place acceptable; I find it unacceptable. It is something that we are determined to get to the bottom of and we're going to do that in a systematic, fair and reasonable way, in a way that reflects the interests of the province of Ontario, and if

I may say so, in a way, I think, that would have been followed by previous governments in terms of dealing with a difficult situation which requires a comprehensive response, a response that is serious, that is diligent, that is interested in finding and getting to the truth and that is also prepared to recognize the nature of the process we are involved in.

Because of what was revealed on Friday, the first initial response in terms of looking at it, obviously, was for Mr Piper to go right away, and he resigned. The second one was for any possibility of there being any criminal element involved in terms of what took place, for that matter to be reviewed as soon as possible by the police. As I've said to his colleagues and will say to the member very directly, say to him as clearly as I possibly can, if there are further measures that need to be taken, of course they will be taken.

LANDFILL

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is to the Minister of the Environment and the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. The minister is aware that on Friday the IWA released a short list of candidate sites. The minister also knows that almost one third of the sites of the last 16 are within a few kilometres of each other, all on the North Pickering land assembly, the 20,000 acres of provincially owned land in the north end of my riding.

The people of Pickering have been relatively quiet since the release of the long list of sites in June. They knew it was inevitable that there would be sites in Pickering; there always are. Friday brought this to an abrupt end when the IWA drew back its bow and set its sights on the biggest target in the town of Pickering.

My question to the minister is this: In the vast acreage of undeveloped land throughout the entire greater Toronto area, how could it be that 5 out of the 16 sites fall within a few kilometres of each other and all happen to fall within the provincial land holdings expropriated by the provincial Tories and the federal Liberals? Is it a coincidence or is it because the IWA is practising the three Cs—close, cheap and convenient?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I indeed know the depths of the feelings of the member and of his constituents and I want to assure him that the premise of his question that it is a coincidence and that Whitevale is close, cheap and convenient is incorrect.

As the member knows, it had always been the commitment of our party, in opposition and in government, that no new landfill site would be opened without an environmental assessment. The environmental assessment process is a planning process that, by a series of eliminations, arrives at a preferred site. The criteria that the Interim Waste Authority has been using have been fully discussed, much debated and therefore a fair and open process.

As a result of the application of those criteria, a short list of sites was determined. When those sites have been evaluated, hydrogeologically and for their other social and economic impacts, then a preferred site will be determined and an Environmental Assessment Board will determine

whether or not that's an appropriate site for the waste that is generated within the region of Durham.

Mr Wiseman: Pickering is the host of just about every negative imaginable. They have had decades of dump sites with the Brock West, Brock North and Beare Road landfill sites. They have a nuclear power plant with its veritable sea of hydro lines. The minister may recall that just a few months ago this community had to deal with the reality of just what it meant to have a nuclear power plant near with the tritium spill that took place.

Pickering has a sewage treatment plant that takes the sewage not only from Durham but from York as well. They have had to live with the expropriation of 40,000 acres of land over the last 20 years, both by the federal and provincial governments. To this day, they live with the uncertainty of what this has left them with. Many of the homes have been in the families for generations. They have had an airport looming over their heads for years and years. One might ask what is left or, even worse, what harm could another dump do?

It has been suggested that Pickering is revisited time and time again because it is seen as a community that is so tarnished that a little more won't hurt.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place his supplementary, please. I ask the House to come to order and I would ask the members on the opposition side to allow the member, who has been recognized and has a right to ask a question, to ask it.

Mr Wiseman: Mr Speaker, it's obvious they don't want me to have this question because of their culpability in having the sites located there by their years and years of neglect.

The Speaker: Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Wiseman: Can the minister tell me if the environmental assessment takes into account social equity, that is, a community's track record of having to endure decades of negatives that have resulted in the degradation of the comfort and wellbeing of a community?

Hon Mrs Grier: The residents of Pickering are well served by having as their member an environmentalist who has fought harder than any previous member of that area on their behalf, and I want to say that very strongly in this House.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mrs Grier: I also want to say to the member that the environmental assessment process will indeed look at all aspects of potential landfill impacts on the environment.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon Mrs Grier: The environmental assessment process will look at the economic, the social and the natural aspects of the situation, and an independent environmental assessment hearing board will make the final determination when it gets to the point of looking at the preferred site.

The IWA's site search has specifically addressed the question of social equity, and the public has been consulted over the last year for its views on this subject. But I must say to the member that there are very different views about social equity. People say, "Preserve agricultural land." Others say, "We don't want a landfill site adjacent to a built-up area." Those are precisely the kinds of debates and the kinds of arguments that the Environmental Assessment Act is designed to accommodate, to facilitate and to resolve, and I'm confident that that will happen in a fair and open manner.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired. Motions? On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, I am totally unimpressed with your call for the end of question period, when you allowed almost seven minutes to elapse on the question clock and almost more than that when she finished her thing. Earlier on today you stood in your place—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: —and you allowed two minutes to run off the clock while they barracked about the questions on the leader's part on the opposition benches.

You have given the Conservatives on two consecutive days a question after time has expired. Why no question today, Mr Speaker, when you know full well that the whole activity was designed to postpone another question today for us? Mr Speaker, I ask you to reconsider your ruling.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, he will know that indeed I keep a close eye on the clock. In fact, there is a weekly time sheet which appears on my desk, and it may be of interest to the members to know that, almost without exception, we have on a daily basis a 50-50 split in time between questions asked and responses given. I monitor that very closely in an effort to ensure that as many members as possible will have an opportunity to pose questions. It indeed could—

Mr Elston: You stood in your place and gave them two minutes off the clock just for barracking at us.

The Speaker: Whenever there is disorder, the Speaker has a responsibility to try to maintain order. The member will recall that I commented yesterday that indeed I was impressed with the restraint which was shown on both sides of the chamber both Monday and Tuesday. Such restraint was not quite as evident today and hence it was very difficult to maintain order. I cannot do this job alone. It requires the efforts of every member in this chamber to try to maintain order and decorum so that we can maximize the number of questions which are asked.

Indeed, there was an act of generosity yesterday which may in fact not have been the most wise thing to do. I was attempting to establish some balance in terms of questions asked and answers given, and perhaps I was in error in doing that. It was done in an effort to try to assist the opportunity for opposition members to ask questions.

All I can do is request all members on both sides of the House to try to exercise some restraint so that it is not necessary for me to interrupt the proceedings. It's the last thing a Speaker wants to do, interrupt the proceedings, and I do it most reluctantly, but—

Mr Elston: We should have a running tab on how long you stand and do that very interruption.

The Speaker: Motions? Petitions?

1520

PETITIONS

EDUCATION FINANCING

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It has been sent in by the Our Lady of Perpetual Help school PTA, which is in St George-St David riding. I'm reading it on behalf of Ian Scott since he isn't here to put into the Legislature.

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two education systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto, and whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in these areas, yet it has access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students, and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students, than our public school counterpart;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned, so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded, not only fully, but with equity and equality."

I am signing this petition.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Petitions? I wish people would take their seats so that I could see who wants to present a petition.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine the economic recovery in the region;

"Whereas it will cause a decline in the commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax;

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any changes to property tax assessment in Metropolitan

Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

I too affix my signature to this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr David Winninger (London South): I have a petition signed by 86 individuals, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government of Ontario, through David Winninger, MPP for the riding of London South, and Honourable Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario:

"That, in our opinion, no benefit to the people of the province of Ontario can be realized by broadening the scope of legalized gambling to include casinos, electronic gambling devices or anything else beyond the present legal options."

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): A petition to the Legislature of Ontario to "reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I've affixed my signature.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I support this petition and have signed it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly in regard to the amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act. I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for the family life, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship to many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I affix my signature to the petition.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them,

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I affix my signature to that as well.

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RULING

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): I have a petition signed by 85 constituents from the Catholic Women's League of Canada, Hamilton diocese:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Commission in its September 1 ruling extended full family and bereavement benefits to same-sex arrangements; and

"Whereas this is believed by Catholic women as detrimental to the family and society,

"We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Honourable Howard Hampton, Attorney General of the province of Ontario, to appeal this ruling of the Human Rights Commission."

I affix my signature.

POST-POLIO SYNDROME

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): I have two petitions addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas post-polio is a new phenomenon to attack survivors of polio;

"Whereas the Ottawa and District Post-Polio Association has been formed to help survivors of polio;

"Whereas most family practitioners do not have the specialized knowledge to treat post-polio symptoms effectively,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to establish a post-polio clinic in the rehabilitation centre of Ottawa-Carleton for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients and to disseminate information so that the estimated 1,000 known polio survivors in the centre's catchment area can receive adequate treatment and that the medical profession be educated regarding the post-polio syndrome."

I have affixed my signature.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine economic recovery in the region;

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax,

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any changes to the property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

This is signed by many of my constituents and I too affix my signature.

1530

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 33 residents of the county of Middlesex who petition the Legislative Assembly to set aside the report of the arbitrator, Mr John Brant, because his report does not reflect the expressed wishes of the people in Middlesex in their majority, who believe this decision is not in the best interests of the people in the London and Middlesex area. It awards too extensive an area of annexation to the city of London, will jeopardize agricultural land and the viability of the county and our rural way of life and in no way reflects the possibility, inasmuch as alternate proposals exist.

I have signed my name to this petition.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I have a petition on the subject of market value assessment.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned residents of the city of Toronto, strongly urge that Metropolitan Toronto council skip its market value assessment proposal. Instead, it should be referred to the Fair Tax Commission in order to create a property tax system that is fair and equitable."

I have signed my signature to this petition.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I have a petition on behalf of St Clement's school in my riding, Etobicoke West.

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education and, in keeping with this, the province...supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto, and whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet has access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pool of corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equality and equity."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have yet another petition to the members of provincial Parliament on the question of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I affixed my signature to the petition.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have another petition. This one is signed by some residents in my riding as well as throughout other parts of Metro.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed imposition of market value assessment in Metropolitan Toronto will result in increased business bankruptcies and job losses and will undermine the economic recovery in the region;

"Whereas it will cause a decline in commercial investment in Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas the proposed market value reassessment plan is an unfair location tax,

"That the provincial government declare a moratorium on any changes to property tax assessment in Metropolitan Toronto until all alternatives to market value assessment have been studied and the results reported to the public."

This is signed by many of my constituents and I too affix my signature to it.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with regard to saving fish and wildlife and it reads as follows:

"We feel Bud Wildman of the MNR is acting irresponsibly and unable to handle the job as minister. He should resign.

"The killing of fish and wildlife by native people out of season and for commercial reasons should be stopped."

It's signed by approximately 800 people from the London area and I have signed my name to the petition.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mrs MacKinnon from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr35, An Act to revive P.J. Construction Limited

Bill Pr63, An Act to revive Modern Optical Ltd.

Bill Pr68, An Act to revive Rainbow Halfway House

Bill Pr73, An Act respecting the City of York.

Your committee recommends that the fees and the actual cost of printing be remitted on Bill Pr68, An Act to revive Rainbow Halfway House.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LIMITATIONS ACT (GENERAL), 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LA PRESCRIPTION
(DE NATURE GÉNÉRALE)

On motion by Mr Hampton, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 99, An Act to revise the Limitations Act / Loi révisant la Loi sur la prescription des actions.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Minister, do you wish to make any brief remarks?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Yes, briefly. As I mentioned in my statement earlier today, the bill will implement much-needed and long-awaited reform of the law relating to limitations of actions. While it will benefit everyone involved in civil litigation in our courts, it is of particular significance to victims of sexual and other abuses. In many cases, there will be no limitation period whatsoever.

The bill reflects a broad public consensus that has emerged from active consultation. I look forward to the same consensus in support of the bill in this assembly.

REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
AMENDMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992
MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LES PROFESSIONS
DE LA SANTÉ RÉGLEMENTÉES

On motion by Ms Lankin, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 100, An Act to amend the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 / Loi modifiant la Loi de 1991 sur les professions de la santé réglementées.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Minister, do you have any brief comments?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): Yes. I'm pleased to seek leave to introduce the bill today. This amendment bill is addressed at ending sexual abuse by health professionals directed towards patients. It's the result of work that has been done over the last two years, initiated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, its establishment of a task force, the task force report and its recommendations responded to by the college.

After a period of consultation, we are pleased to bring forward the amendments that will apply to all regulated health professionals. As I indicated in my remarks today, following second reading we will be moving to committee in which we hope there can be further consultation with affected parties.

1540

ORDERS OF THE DAY

REFERRAL OF BILL 94

Mr Philip, on behalf of Mr Cooke, moved government notice of motion number 22:

That notwithstanding any standing order, the subject matter of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto be referred to the standing committee on social justice for the purpose of conducting public hearings pending the referral of the bill to the committee after second reading and that the standing

committee on social development be authorized to meet from 3:30 pm until 10 pm on November 30, 1992.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Only, Mr Speaker, that on the first reading, the reading does not comply with the actual notice that has appeared. The committee was unfortunately named "social justice," but I presume he required it to be "social development."

The Deputy Speaker: Could you make the correction?

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and Acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation): Sorry, I thought I said social development. If I read incorrectly, I correct the record.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Philip has moved, on behalf of Mr Cooke, government notice of motion number 22. Mr Philip.

Hon Mr Philip: This implements an agreement reached by the three House leaders on the matter that I've just read.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Bruce.

Mr Elston: Indeed, this allows the committee to begin taking briefings from the ministry and other people prior to second reading being obtained. We certainly want to ensure that the committee is able to start its public work as early as possible, and consent to this being processed today.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate?

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have some concerns about this resolution. I'm going to say from the outset that I agree that we should start the hearings on Monday. However, the way this resolution is written, I can only conclude that the person who wrote it doesn't know anything about the English language whatsoever. There's no punctuation, and it's very hard to get a sense of what this resolution means.

It's very open-ended. It could give you the impression that we're only going to get one day of hearings on market value reassessment. It is absolutely critical that all of the people who are affected by market value should have their time to be heard, because all of the submissions that were made to Metropolitan Toronto and to the municipalities were on the basis of a different plan, not the plan that was cooked up on the fly in the last two hours of debate at Metro.

I want to point out that all of the protestations of the government to suggest that, really, this isn't MVA are absolute baloney. Let me say why it's baloney. This is just a sublethal dose of MVA, but it is MVA no matter how you twist and turn it.

If you consider that the class which is now known as the "excluded" class—previously it was known as the "other" class—is getting full MVA, to the extent that they are paying \$80 million more under this MVA plan, and if you look at what the residential reductions are overall in Metro, \$60 million, if it wasn't for the excluded class paying considerably more under full MVA, then indeed the residential class everywhere in Metro would get no reduc-

tion. So the suggestions that the Minister of Municipal Affairs makes to try to get his caucus in line on this issue are absolutely preposterous. This is full MVA.

The newspaper reports which preceded this bill coming to the House suggested that the Minister of Municipal Affairs was going to make sure that caps were in place for the residential people; he wasn't happy with the idea or the fact that caps would be removed at point of sale. Yet this minister, who's prepared to interfere in all kinds of other issues, is so gutless that all he wimpily says in his bill is that Metro Toronto is going to have to pass a bylaw to make sure that point-of-sale clicks in for these people. That is no protection whatsoever.

This is the same government that in fact was prepared to interfere in the Toronto Islands, much against the wishes of Metropolitan Toronto. It's an interventionist government, and yet on this particular issue it's trying to have it both ways. You can't have it both ways. You are giving Metro the loaded gun and saying, "You take the responsibility." The responsibility is equally split between this government and Metropolitan Toronto. We're going to see massive bankruptcies under this plan. There's full market value assessment for all the excluded categories, which covers the railway lands, the municipal parking lots, the TTC and Hydro lands.

The government, in one of its policy documents which emanates from the policy convention of the NDP in 1984 and is binding on this party and has never been rescinded, states, "The NDP opposes any further introduction of market value assessment." It is not apparent by the government's actions that it opposes it. Many of the members in this House campaigned in the last election as being against market value reassessment. Not only did they campaign as being against market value reassessment, but they said they would fight market value reassessment. Many of those people are now in the cabinet. The member for Beaches-Woodbine, the member for Riverdale, the member for Dovercourt and the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, among others, all fought against MVA and said they would fight it. Some fight.

This is as laughable as that document you put out to the people during the last election called Agenda for People. It was the most dishonest document the people of Ontario have ever read, because there wasn't a shred of truth in it. I am not going to allow the members of this government to get away with the fact that this is not MVA. It is MVA. Otherwise, why would the excluded class not be paying reduced amounts? They are paying the full MVA. I see one of the members at the back there nodding her head. When a house is sold, it's going to full MVA. If that isn't full MVA, I don't know what is. You obviously haven't read the bill and you don't understand what you're talking about. But that is typical for this government.

This is MVA. It's poisonous. It's going to kill business after business in this community. Small businesses are the ones that are disproportionately being hit by this bill. Small businesses are the people who drive the jobs of this province. It is well known that in Canada small business creates more jobs than large corporations. In the past the NDP has always said that it was against these big multinationals.

Well, it's the big multinationals that are gaining out of this scheme and the small people who are suffering.

We have examples in Yorkdale, in the shopping plaza, where the largest anchor tenants are going to get enormous reductions in their taxes under this plan and the small people, who are already paying more rent than the anchor tenants, are going to be paying more taxes. What a shameful state of affairs we've got to.

We have a government that campaigned on something and is absolutely turning its back and playing Pontius Pilate on this. I am disgusted. I had always known that I did not like socialism, but I at least thought there would be some honesty. There is no honesty in this government. It's a preposterous idea that you would try to get away with the fact of telling the public this isn't MVA—it is MVA—and try to tell the public that you're protecting it because you want a bylaw passed by Metro to ensure that point-of-sale is not involved. All it says is that you pass that bylaw and then, once you've passed it, Metro can impose point-of-sale, full MVA.

1550

Well, Metro, let me tell you, has already voted on three occasions to have MVA and has already passed the resolution that there should be point of sale. Back in 1988 and again in 1989, they voted that, yes, they would have point of sale for residences. Again in 1992, they voted for this.

So do not have the effrontery to suggest to the people who are watching this debate that you are protecting them. You are not protecting them at all. You are handing a loaded gun to Metropolitan Toronto and, as sure as can be, it will pull the trigger. If you think they won't, you are bigger fools than I took you to be.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I won't accept that. I find it very insulting, personally. I find it insulting, honestly. So please, I want you to retract that last word that you said.

Mr Turnbull: Are you suggesting that I retract the word "fools," Mr Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker: Please, don't play around.

Mr Turnbull: Is that what you're asking me to do?

The Deputy Speaker: I am asking you to retract that word.

Mr Turnbull: I am asking you, is that what you're asking?

The Deputy Speaker: I am asking you to retract the word "fool."

Mr Turnbull: I will say "incompetent"—

The Deputy Speaker: No. I want you to—

Mr Turnbull: I will replace the word, Mr Speaker, with "incompetent."

The Deputy Speaker: No, please take your chair. I have asked you to withdraw that word. I find it insulting, and please don't make any further comments.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: I've asked you.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker, I am speaking to you about, I'm getting guidance from the Chair—

The Deputy Speaker: The Speaker is given certain power to act. Please don't let me use it.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker, I think that the word "fool" is perfectly parliamentary.

The Deputy Speaker: I will not tolerate that word. I'm asking you to withdraw, once.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw the word "fool" and replace it with the word "incompetent."

The Deputy Speaker: That is all that I want to hear. Further debate.

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): Mr Speaker, just briefly, the member for York Mills was discussing the matter of market value assessment and I don't think was able to finish his remarks.

I would only add that certain classes of property have been singled out for full market value tax increases without protective caps. We have heard a lot about protective caps and this minister has indicated that there will not be full market value assessment instituted, but when we're looking at the details of this bill we will find that indeed there will be some classes of property which will not be protected by caps.

I'll give you one example. In 1992, this year, the Parking Authority of Toronto paid \$6.7 million in local taxes. Under the Metro scheme, the parking authority would pay \$19.4 million, an increase of \$12.7 million. We all know the parking authority in Toronto is unable to shoulder this kind of a new tax burden and consequently, it's easy to understand, will not be able to maintain its operation. Consequently, 300 people will lose their jobs. Obviously, this cannot be the intention of this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): It's indeed a pleasure for me to be able to rise and participate in this debate. You can't help but think, as I've sat in the House for the past couple of days and listened to the debate, how the continuation of the debate in this chamber is simply an extension of the debate that's been happening around this particular issue—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: If you could clarify for me, are we debating the MVA or the motion that's before us?

The Deputy Speaker: We are debating the motion.

Mr Stockwell: Okay, I'm sorry.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Downsview.

Mr Perruzza: I—

Mr Ruprecht: You believe that's what you're doing now, are you? This is not the debate.

The Deputy Speaker: It's a debate on the motion.

Mr Ruprecht: This is the motion.

Mr Perruzza: Oh. No, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Anything further on the motion?

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I'd just like to clarify one point, if I may. The reading of the motion would indicate that the social development committee be authorized to meet from 3:30 until 10 on November 30. In fact, there were provisions made for the committee to meet for eight days with two days' clause-by-clause, and we are scheduling meetings to include even Saturday and Sunday to accommodate all the people.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate? The motion was introduced, as you know, by Mr Philip and this is what we're debating: the motion. Any further debate on the motion introduced by Mr Philip?

I will then pose the question. Mr Philip introduced the motion on behalf of Mr Cooke. Mr Philip has moved government notice of motion number 22. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS
EN CE QUI CONCERNE
LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS
DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): This issue is one that has a great history, and I know the member for Eglinton mentioned it yesterday. History tends to be somewhat revised on occasions by individuals, depending which side of the argument they may be on.

I will say at the outset that I have, as an elected official, been for the past 10 years fully in favour of market value assessment. I always have been. I haven't changed my position. I've always endorsed the concept and I've always endorsed the fact that we have to bring the reassessment act of Metropolitan Toronto up to date so that it may be more equitable and more fair. Categorically, I've not changed my mind or position on this issue since being elected.

Having said that, I cannot say that about the government. The government clearly had a position in the 1980s that was in opposition to market value assessment. I found it very difficult to understand how anyone at a party level could oppose an issue like market value assessment so categorically. Clearly, what has happened is that upon winning the election in 1990 they found themselves in the

awkward position of being on record as being opposed to market value assessment yet having to deal with the issue in a more responsible manner, and that was the manner of being in government.

Since they got elected, there has been some waffling and vacillating on this issue from all sides. I know all caucuses of all three parties have some dissent and some in favour. It seems to me that this could be an issue that I believe could be decided on a free vote by all three parties. It seems to be an issue of local concern that needs to be aired freely and openly by all caucuses.

I took exception in 1984 to the fact that the government, the then NDP opposition, would categorically rule out market value assessment. I guess, having taken that position, it's very clear my thoughts on that process were fairly accurate. I believe it was a prognostication of things to come with this government when it chose to change its mind.

There are people upset out there about the fact that the government did change its mind, because they got categorical promises. I look across the floor and I can see some members who categorically promised not to institute market value assessment. They come from the government back benches and they come from the government cabinet as well. There are people out there who have grave concerns about this particular compromise that was adopted at Metro council and have grave concerns with the government and the way it has waffled and in fact turned on what they consider to be a major party plank.

My real concern stems from how this government decided to handle this issue. What this government is in fact suggesting to this House today, to the people of Metropolitan Toronto and all member municipalities is, "We still don't support market value assessment and we're implementing this piece of legislation today, but it really isn't market value assessment."

1600

Somebody has to be wrong on this issue. Is this the first step towards market value assessment, like some suggest, or is it like the minister suggests, not full market value assessment? Somebody's clearly not being totally forthright with the public. In my opinion, in a sort of subverted fashion this government has taken a very tiny step to institute market value assessment, a step, none the less, that will lead to the road to market value assessment.

They've done so because Metropolitan Toronto council reached a compromise on the issue not once but twice, and the second time it just so happens that this is the government in power. What I will say is, to the people who believe this is full market value assessment, it is not, and to the people who are suggesting this is not market value assessment, it is.

What we have is a government that has taken this very important local issue and turned into nothing but crass local politics. They simply turned this issue into an issue where they're not offending anybody but satisfying no one. The suggestion has been made that the municipality of the city of Toronto was not a firm supporter of market value assessment. Well, that's not shocking. The city of Toronto has never been a supporter of market value assessment, and I

doubt in the future if you'll ever find the city of Toronto supporting market value assessment.

It is absolutely no secret that the city of Toronto's going to have to pay more money to run Metropolitan Toronto under market value assessment than it would have otherwise. To make the argument that an entire municipality doesn't support it is simply to say market value assessment is dead in the water in Metropolitan Toronto and will never happen, and the inequities that are in place will be in place for ever because they may not be addressed under section 63 or section 70.

I don't accept that. I didn't accept that as a member of Metro council representing the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore, where it was very close with respect to market value assessment, the winners and the losers. I don't accept it as the member for Etobicoke West in the provincial Legislature, where clearly the winners outnumber the losers. But in my history when it was very close my position was still the same.

Fundamentally, I believe in fair taxation. If we don't have fair taxation then the system falls apart. We must do our best to ensure that the taxation we have implemented is as fair as it possibly can be. No one on that side of the House or this side of the House would ever say the system that is in place today is even remotely close to the word "fair." No one.

Everyone agrees what we have in place doesn't work. I agree; everyone agrees. It's so bad that the city of Toronto and Etobicoke and all municipalities in Metropolitan Toronto lose literally hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes a year because businesses and residents appeal their taxes in a hodgepodge system where you can't lose. You can't lose because the system is so warped, so distorted and has no ability to be equitable that at the assessment board you always win.

What happens when you always have people—a lot of times it's the same people—who appeal their taxes and always win? Their taxes go down and those people who don't appeal their taxes are simply paying them like they think they should as good citizens. Taxes go up to make up the difference. That happens across all municipalities, so in that sense there is no clear winner.

The argument will be made that the people in the city of Toronto and some portions of North York have made for a long, long time. I used to listen to this argument. They say that this specific tax structure we have, which is market value assessment, isn't fair. It's not fair because it only measures the value of a home. It only measures the value and is not based on any ability to pay. That is true. There is no debate. That is true.

The gauntlet was thrown down some seven or eight years ago now, maybe six at Metro council, to the mayor of North York, Mr Mel Lastman, and to the mayor of the city of Toronto, Mr Art Eggleton. "If it isn't fair, gentlemen, you go away and bring back a new system designed by you and your councils and your experts and consultants and treasurers and financial analysts and give us a system that is fair, that is equitable and that treats everyone in a fair and uphanded manner." Some six or seven or eight years later the report still does not exist.

I look directly across the floor at the member for Downsview, who was a member of that city of North York council when this gauntlet was laid down for his mayor and the mayor of the city of Toronto that said, "Bring us back a system that is fair," and nothing was accomplished. Why was nothing accomplished? Because although market value assessment may not be a perfect system, although it may not work in all cases, although there may be certain areas where it needs to be fine-tuned, the bottom line is that it's the fairest system we've got. That's the bottom line.

I sit in my seat here and hear the concerns echoed by my friend the member for York Mills, whom I truly respect. I respect the fact that he is representing his constituency and I respect the fact that he's speaking on behalf of his constituents, who truly believe that this is not a fair system and they're not getting a fair shake. Good on him for coming here and saying so, because that's what we are elected to do. But we are also elected to do what is fair and what is equitable. We must treat all people in the same fashion, regardless of what city they live in or what street their house happens to be on.

Mr Speaker, I can rhyme off, as the member for Eglinton and I know the member for Parkdale will stand up and rhyme off to you and this Legislature, case after case after case where taxes will be going up, but capped, as being unfair. I can stand here and match them case for case. I can match you on every instance.

The only difference is that in the issues I bring forward these people have been paying these taxes for 42 years. For 42 years they've been paying these taxes and they're overtaxed. They know they're overtaxed and they want their rebate. They want their fair and equitable treatment.

I can show you a house in Etobicoke-Lakeshore on a street that is not considered desirable in the least, in a house that you wouldn't classify as being worth much more than \$150,000, and in Metro that's cheap, and the taxes are \$4,500. You can drive through areas in Rosedale and Cabbagetown, you can drive through these neighbourhoods and find homes that are palatial mansions where they pay taxes the same amounts or less.

The comment will be, "It's isolated," but being through this issue for 10 years, seeing the people come to me and saying, "Why am I paying so much when they pay so little?" it's not isolated. It's patently unfair. If we can't be fair about the simple thing of collecting municipal taxes to build your roads, to build your schools and to provide sewage, what can we, as stewards of the taxpayers, be fair about?

I come at this with a long history and maybe some will accuse me of a slanted view, but as they bring these issues forward, my heart can only sink because I know for every single individual you show me, be it a residence or a business, I got one to match it. The only difference is, they've been paying.

1610

They're not all hardship cases; I don't even pretend that they're all hardship cases. I know personally, where I live, my taxes would go down by \$400 or \$500 on my home, and I don't believe I'm a hardship case. But for the

people like me, there are others where it is a hardship case, and for businesses that happen to be located on Bathurst, don't try to tell me, don't try to insinuate that it's harder to stay in business on Bathurst than it is on Bloor Street. It's the same economy, it's the same recession, it's the same dollars, and they're having just as difficult a time. The only difference is this: Some of these people have gone out of business because they're overtaxed. What is fair about a system like that?

Mr David Winninger (London South): You're overtaxing our patience.

Mr Stockwell: The member from London across the floor suggests I'm overtaxing his patience. It's not an issue in London, but it is an issue in Etobicoke and the city of Toronto and North York and Scarborough. It's a big issue there. I only ask you to bear with me, since you changed the rules, for another 15 minutes, because I consider it very important.

What has Metro council done? Metro council has made what I think is one of the toughest and hardest decisions it had to make. It took a compromising position from a vast array of political sorts from all spectrums of the political rainbow to come up with a deal that really, immediately, puts what I suggest are very few people out of business, if any.

The people who are going to get a reduction get capped. They aren't getting their full reduction; they're capped again. The people who are getting increases are capped again. They've said that they will increase these caps slowly and they'll increase these caps so that you can defend yourself against a crisis of an increase in taxes.

Metro council worked long and hard to come up with this compromise, and if I were the government of the day—and I'm not, but if I were—I would have said to the members in the cabinet that this is a good deal. This is as fair as it's going to get. I wouldn't have monkeyed around with it, because if you do fool around with this process and force it back to Metro council and it can't come to an agreement on the changes this government is forcing it to make, it will never happen. It will never happen.

I say to the government members opposite, don't allow your Minister of Municipal Affairs to start fooling around with what Metro council adopted. Don't let your Minister of Municipal Affairs change the parameters they used, because this deal is a very shaky deal. It's shaky because there are a lot of parties involved and there are a lot of votes involved that could easily fall off the table with any major changes.

Make no mistake about it, the forces against this deal are powerful and they're very eloquent. They make very persuasive arguments. Make no mistake about that. Don't ever underestimate the city of Toronto or the mayor or the members of the city of Toronto. I understand what they're doing. They're representing their constituencies, and that's what we're supposed to do. I accept that fact.

I accept the fact that they don't like what I'm saying. I accept the fact that they don't agree with what I'm saying. But if you start messing with this, like the Minister of Municipal Affairs is trying to do, you're going to break

that opportunity, an opportunity for people in Etobicoke, for people in Scarborough, whose only sin, to be overtaxed, was to have their house built after 1942.

That's the only sin they've had. So they've had to have increased taxes because when the assessor came around, he assessed them on the rate that the house was built. That's the only thing they did wrong, and that's why they pay more in taxes. If you want to jeopardize that, if you want to put that into some kind of black hole, start changing the rules Metro adopted.

The members opposite, I say very clearly, if you don't like it, vote against it. I say to the minister who's here today, if you don't like it, vote against it. Do that. I say to the members opposite who have very strong opinions on this, if you don't like Metro's deal, vote against it. It's better that you vote against it than change it, because if you change it, nothing will happen. Nothing will happen. That will be the real travesty. That is at the crux of this issue.

That is why I'm so proud of our party on this issue. I'm so proud of our party on this issue because we can stand here in this House and speak as we believe on this issue, on market value assessment. If we don't like it, we vote against it. If we accept it, we vote for it. It will come as a shock to some members across the floor, because that's called the democratic process.

I know full well there are a lot of whipped votes over there, because the Minister of Health herself stood in this chamber yesterday and said, "I don't like this, I don't accept this, I'm not in favour of this, but I'm voting for it," and they're voting for it for what I consider to be all the wrong reasons.

Interjection: She likes her limo.

Mr Stockwell: I don't suggest that about the Minister of Health. What I suggest is that if you vote in favour of this for the wrong reasons and you allow to take place the changes the Minister of Municipal Affairs has done, you in fact could put this thing under, you could kill it. It's kind of like the argument about insurance: When is 80% more than 90%? This is the case where if you vote in favour of something, you could kill it.

I appeal to my colleagues from the suburbs of Metropolitan Toronto opposite, the members for Downsview and Yorkview and the members opposite, if you really believe in market value assessment, take the report that Metropolitan Toronto council adopted and vote for it. But don't leave them in the very uncertain situation where you're going to damn them by changing the compromise.

I know I can appeal to at least one of those members, the member of North York council. I know I can appeal to him because he knows exactly how tenuous this is, he knows exactly how difficult this is, he knows exactly how difficult it was to come by and he knows exactly how hard it will be to ever come to another compromise.

I want to conclude by offering a short history on the 1989 situation. In 1989, Metropolitan Toronto council came up with another compromise. In that compromise they didn't seem to take into consideration the concerns with respect to the commercial community out there, and

that was a mistake. What was adopted from that was a change that allowed us to cap the commercial community as well, particularly that of small business.

I will say this too: I heard a lot of complaints, I saw a lot of parades and I saw a lot of action in opposition to this particular market value assessment before the compromise. But you know, since they've had this compromise, I haven't seen that. I've seen politicians and I've seen a few other political hangers-on, but I've not seen the business community come out and resoundingly, without debate, condemn this.

You know why I think that's the case? You know why I think they're not out resoundingly condemning this? It's because I think that fundamentally the business community would support this. Fundamentally, when it comes down to the crunch, the business communities that were so severely hit, that have been protected under this plan, will support it. They'll support it because it's fair. It's fair for them, it's fair for the businesses in the surrounding municipalities, it's fair for the residents and it's fair for the residents in the surrounding municipalities.

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If you look, I think you're finding without a doubt that since this was passed in Metro council, the hue and cry that was out there—and I think maybe well founded, before a compromise could be reached—has changed dramatically. I think it's important that we note that, because what that says to me and what I think it should say to the government across the floor is that maybe a local government worked something out. Maybe a local government came to a reasonable compromise. Maybe if you'd left the Toronto Islands issue to the local government, it could have done the same as well. That is what I consider to be the crunch of the issue.

The last point I'd like to take up, and this is what the major contention is with the opposition, my opposition, on this, which is the city of Toronto, is that they seem to have some concern with respect to point of sale and this government seems to have some concern with respect to point of sale. I support point of sale.

I'll tell you why I support point of sale. If someone is selling their house, who lived in that house under the assumed taxes and is having them capped and moved up on a very gradual basis—if they decide to move, if they decide to leave, then the person buying the house can be fully aware of the taxes on that house when he buys it. You can put a little proviso in the MLS listings in Metropolitan Toronto—

[Interruption]

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. Sergeant at Arms, would you—I would ask the people in the gallery to refrain from shouting. You are guests here and we welcome you to stay. Otherwise, if you do continue, I will ask you to leave.

Mr Stockwell: They can, at point of sale, have the full knowledge of how much the taxes are on the property, and those are what the fair market taxes are. When they go to buy the house, they'll make a decision on whether or not to buy the house depending on what the taxes are.

The argument, and it was obviously echoed very clearly in the gallery and I was going to put it forward, is that these people will not sell their homes because the taxes will be higher. How do the people in Etobicoke and North York sell their homes? How do the people in Scarborough sell their homes? How do these people sell their homes when their taxes are significantly higher than they should be under market value reassessment? They do it because there's value.

The last thing is, if you don't believe in the value under this reassessment plan, the beautiful system we've set up is that you appeal your taxes. Everybody has the right to appeal their taxes. If you think you've had it overstated you appeal, and if you appeal and win you get a reduction.

So don't tell me that the people in Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York who are having just as difficult a time getting by during this recession should pay artificially higher taxes because we can't come to a decision, because we can't reach a compromise. That's not fair. That's not equitable. Across the floor, I say to you that that's the last thing I would have expected from your party.

Finally, I say to those across the floor, if you don't like market value assessment, change it. If you don't think it's fair, change it. If you don't think it's being equitable, change it, because you know something? You can't run from this argument any more, because you've got all the levers of power in your hands. If you don't like it, change it. I demand that you change it if it's not fair and equitable. I demand for you tell me what is fair and equitable. I demand that you let me know and my constituents know what is a fair and equitable tax system, because if this isn't good enough, what is?

All I hear is, "This isn't good enough." All I hear is, "I'm opposed to MVA." All I hear is, "Reassessment is no good." Then tell me, folks, what is good, what is fair and what is equitable?

The silence is always deafening, because they don't have an option. They don't have an alternative. If they do put out an alternative, it's shot down by their own communities before it can even reach the Metropolitan Toronto level.

I thank the members opposite for hearing me. I thank those in the Liberal Party, some of whom, I'm sure, are going to disagree with what I've said. Again, I thank those members in my caucus who are also in agreement and those who disagree.

I say again to the members across the floor, I make three challenges to them when it comes to this issue. My first challenge is, make this a free vote; let everyone decide. The second challenge is, if this doesn't work, tell us what does, show us what does. The third challenge is, before you make your vote and before you determine it just based on your own local municipalities, please come and see me. I'll supply you with names and addresses and lists of businesses and residential communities that have been overpaying their taxes for 40 and 50 years. Then look me in the eye and tell me the system that is in place today is fair and equitable and the only people who need protecting are yours.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions or comments?

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): The member for Etobicoke West is normally pretty persuasive, but in this case he is leaving some gaps. He's saying, for instance, that all increases are capped; essentially that's what he's making us believe. But what would he say, for instance, to development sites currently vacant? What would he say to rights of way and utility corridors and properties for which grants are paid in lieu of taxes? What would he say? I'd like to hear what he's going to say.

Secondly, he's saying that the whole business community is not resoundingly against market value assessment. I would question him by simply asking him, would he be prepared to change his mind if the business community in Metro Toronto would come and make a presentation before this committee and say that it is against market value assessment? Is he then prepared to change his mind and say, "No, we need to change it," or he would be prepared to speak against it?

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): My colleague the member for Etobicoke West and I have had many very vigorous debates privately about this particular issue, and it's one of the very few issues that I fundamentally disagree with him on.

But he raised some very good questions and one of them is, is this MVA? The government is trying to suggest this is not MVA. Indeed it is MVA; there's no doubt about it. That is the issue where we both, I believe, agree on that. This is MVA. We know that in fact the excluded category, which was previously referred to as the "other" category, is not capped in any way; it is getting full MVA.

At point of sale, I want to make the point that people who are selling their homes today are certainly not doing it for speculative reasons. Anyone who has an unusually large tax increase is going to be penalized as a result of the inflationary trends that existed in 1988 where certain areas went up disproportionately to others.

I do want to point out that, yes indeed, the people who are against MVA have offered an alternative and that is unit assessment. Unit assessment has been proven to be workable in a test model where they have analysed the numbers from Pickering.

I do applaud his call for the government to have a free vote; let all members stand up and be counted. Indeed, in debate yesterday, the Minister of Health was saying that this is a wrong plan, awful, she didn't like it, but she was going to vote along with the government.

What must the electorate think when you campaign in an election and you say you're going to be against something and then afterwards you get a cabinet position—and I see a cabinet minister; the member for High Park-Swansea is here today. She campaigned as being against market value, and indeed the member for St Andrew-St Patrick campaigned against it.

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The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): We're hearing a lot about the negative component to business. What about the positive component to business, for instance, in Yorkview? What about Adidas, which is going to experience a \$16,000 decrease in taxes? Are we saying that they're unhappy with MVA? Are we saying that all of the businesses in Yorkview, in Downsview and a few other areas around the city are unhappy with MVA? I don't think that's what we're saying at all. I think that the people who have spoken in regard to the negative component are speaking on behalf of their communities, and I don't blame them for that, but don't hide the issues.

The resales: On the average, the home owners in Yorkview have been paying \$2,500 to \$3,000 in taxes. They've been selling their homes. They've been doing okay in terms of resale, so let's not hide the issues. What about the people in Yorkview, the people in Downsview who are waiting for this long-awaited decrease? Isn't it fair to them? Isn't it a fact that they've been subsidizing for years now? Let's not hide that issue.

We talk about the negative component in a particular part of the city, but we don't talk about the positive components that exist around the rest of Metro. Stop hiding the issues. This is a compromise, and the people of Yorkview agree with that. They're not getting the full reduction; they're getting 40% the first year and 10% the next. They're not happy with that, but they've compromised. I ask that the people in Toronto and the people in York Mills do the same thing. It's a compromise. Let's not hide the issues.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Eglinton.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know you're automatically pointing to me because you knew I was about to be on my feet on this issue. I say to the member for Etobicoke West that while you normally are, as the member for Parkdale said, quite persuasive, in this case I'm afraid I feel very differently than you. You were talking about, for instance, the businesses and you said, "They're all on a level playing field across Metro."

But one thing I pointed out yesterday—and I'm not sure if the member from Etobicoke was here at the time; I know the member for St Andrew-St Patrick wasn't, for instance, and she will be very interested in this—was the number of small businesses across Metro that will face the maximum 25% increase, plus whatever other increases come their way, because of Metro council's budgetary increases.

In North York we're looking at 7,600 businesses; 28.1% of all the small businesses in North York will receive the maximum increase. In Etobicoke, 4,700; 30.3% will receive the maximum increase. In Scarborough, 6,500; 28.9% of all small business in Scarborough. In East York, 1,200; 40.3% of small business in East York will be facing a 50% tax increase over the next three years.

I defy the member from Etobicoke to look at this legislation and see where it addresses new businesses. It doesn't, because new businesses will not be protected by this cap. So those businesses will pay the 200%, 400%, 600%, 800%

increases. They will be appraised at full market value. This hurts business, and I don't think he should deny it.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. The member for Etobicoke West, you have two minutes.

Mr Stockwell: I'm not certain if the member for Eglinton was in here for my whole speech.

Ms Poole: I was watching you.

Mr Stockwell: I did mention the fact of point of sale, and I also agree with my same criteria for point of sale as far as a new business is concerned. If you're a new business, you investigate these kinds of things, and if these taxes are too high, then you don't locate there.

Ms Poole: That's the problem.

Mr Stockwell: That's the way business works, and that's the way business will always work. But to use that as an argument against any kind of reassessment ever is foolhardy. You'd never have any reassessment of any kind at any point for ever if that was always your argument, because somebody's going to get an increase. Shake the trees. When you do reassessment, people get increases. That happens. So if your argument is, "People are going to get increases so we can't do it," I don't agree with you.

Second, you tell me there are businesses that are getting increases. Yes, there are, but talk about those businesses that are getting decreases. They are finding it difficult to get by because their taxes are higher than they should be. They're paying, so they can't meet their payroll, so they can't stay in business, so they lose their family business. As the mayor of North York says, "What are these people, chopped liver?"

Of course I understand. Being in business, I really appreciate what you're saying, but for every increase, there are more decreases. Sixty-two per cent across Metropolitan Toronto will be receiving decreases.

Let's talk business, as the member for Parkdale said. You're telling me about the business people who come out to committee and say, "We're opposed." I'll bring businesses out that are in favour. What about Campbell Soup on the lakeshore? They supply a lot of jobs for a lot of people and they're paying thousands and thousands of dollars too much in taxes. Why can't they be looked after?

The point I'm making to you is that yes, there are increases, but don't deny there are decreases for those who have been overpaying.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): It's indeed a pleasure to be able to participate in this debate. I can see from the feelings in this chamber that there are mixed views on all sides of this issue, in fact, with all three parties.

Quite frankly, I thought when the debate entered this arena, the debate would hover around the issue of taxes and the issues of fairness and equity, but all that's happened in this arena is precisely the same thing that has happened for the last 25 years or so within Metro. The issue of fairness, the issue of equity and the issue of justice have given way, quite simply, to politics and political gamesmanship. That's precisely what's happened in this Legislature.

I've sat by and listened to the member for Eglinton participate in the debate and talk on market value assessment, I've sat by and listened to the member for York Mills participate in the same debate, and I've just sat and listened to the member for Etobicoke West participate in the debate as well. While I agree with the member for Etobicoke West, I can't proceed to make comments on some of his comments without first reflecting back to some of the comments that were made by the member for Eglinton and reiterated by the member for York Mills.

Mr Speaker, as you know, because you're a fair-minded member of this Legislature, currently within Metro, we are on a market value system that is antiquated. Old properties, relatively old properties, new properties that come on stream, are all assessed at their current value, but then they revert back and the assessed figure they are given is based on 1940 values. What does this suggest? This suggests that if a property came on line prior to 1940, its assessments will generally be much lower than similar properties of similar value that came on line much later.

What do you have resulting in the current system? Inequities. It's just not inequities between the city of Toronto and the city of North York, the city of East York and the city of Etobicoke, or the city of Toronto versus the city of Scarborough. No, those aren't the only inequities that happen. There are also inequities that exist between neighbourhoods. There are neighbourhoods in the city of Toronto which pay an uneven share of taxes, a disproportionately uneven share of taxes. You will find as you go through the city of Toronto and you visit neighbourhoods that have been redone, redeveloped, that have come on stream much, much later, they will pay a disproportionately higher rate of tax than what their neighbours will pay.

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So this isn't an issue of the city of Toronto versus the city of North York or the city of Etobicoke versus the city of Scarborough. It's an issue of older properties versus newer properties. It's an issue of properties of similar values in different locations, in different neighbourhoods, paying disproportionately higher taxes.

As I look over to the member for Willowdale, he represents very much this kind of community. In Willowdale, what do you have? You have a lot of older homes which essentially were built in and around the 1940s, and what's happened is that a lot of the homes have been torn down and they've been built anew. So you have homes side by side, in many cases with not much difference between them—similar lots, similar properties—which pay disproportionately different taxes.

Now, I know the member for Willowdale will probably stand later in this debate and will point out on this particular point that in fact the newer homes are in most cases a little larger. The old house may be 1,500 or 2,000 square feet. The new home, considered a monster home, may be 2,500 or 2,600 square feet. But the difference in taxes, their actual property taxes, is thousands of dollars.

What fairness is there in a system of taxation that essentially allows these kinds of inequities? I say to you, Mr Speaker, because you're a fair-minded member of this Legislature, there is none. There is no fairness.

I'm not making the argument here today that market value assessment is a fair form of taxation. Absolutely not. It is not a fair form of taxation. It bears no relevance on ability to pay, none whatsoever. However, it's the current system we have, market value. All that has been asked and all that Metro council is asking is what 272 or 282 other municipalities within the province of Ontario have already asked for and, quite frankly, already received: that the province return back to them more current rolls, more current assessment values, to which they apply their mill rates and levy their taxes on a fairer basis than what you currently have in Metropolitan Toronto.

That doesn't happen here. That is what I thought the debate was going to revolve around: quite simply, the issues of fairness, the issues of equity, the issues of justice. But what have we seen and what have we had? We've had members essentially defending the city of Toronto, and it's no secret that the city of Toronto opposes any form of update in the property tax system that you have. Quite clearly, they would be the loser. On the whole, they are undertaxed because of the current system, because what we do is we translate values within Metropolitan Toronto back to 1940 values.

So if you're sitting there and you receive your property tax assessment form come this late November or December—and I suspect that in Metro this year, that will be delayed—the figure that you see on your form is a 1940 assessed value for your home. People can't understand it. People don't know what it means. "What does it mean that my home is assessed at \$6,000 or \$6,200 or \$7,000?" "Well, that's what your home essentially would have been worth in 1940." But in fact that's misinformation, because that's not what their home, if they live in the suburbs, would have been worth in 1940. In fact, it would have been worth substantially less.

So they've come on stream at a much higher rate of tax. Where is the fairness in that? I suggest to you that there is no fairness in that. On this form, there's a little line at the bottom which says, if you don't agree with this assessment, just fill it in, send it back to us, and you'll have an appeal. You'll have your day in court. So for those brighter individuals in our communities who can read and who feel that they are paying a disproportionately higher rate of tax, they fill in the form and they send it in, and what do they do? They have their day in court.

You know what the Assessment Review Board panellist will say to them? "Prove to me that you pay a higher rate of tax than properties within your neighbourhood." This is a trick in itself. Obviously that's something that's very difficult to do, because generally neighbourhoods are built up all at one time. So if you're paying higher, all of your neighbours are paying a higher rate as well. What chance have you got to seek justice, to seek fairness, to seek equity under our current system? You've got none, that's what you've got. None.

• So you're essentially penalized for where you live. Even though you know that under a market value system, and that's the system we have, when you compare your own property, your own home, to a home of similar value located in an older area of town, your taxes will be higher,

you say to yourself: "Jeez, this is not the way it's supposed to be. Taxation systems are supposed to be relatively fair."

There are some individuals who are a little smarter than others, and they'll find some loophole; they'll do some things which may cause them not to pay as much tax as another individual in a similar class. But by and large, our systems are supposed to be fair, they're supposed to be equitable, they're supposed to be just. I say to you, in our current property tax system, that simply doesn't exist.

So what have you had happen in the last 25 years in Metro? There's been a debate which has essentially caused nothing. You've had powerful blocks, powerful groups of people who have banded together and resisted change, not in the name of fairness, not in the name of justice, not in the name of equity, but in the name of politics, because their own political hides were at stake.

It's no secret that Metro hasn't asked for this before, because the city of Toronto council, along with the city of North York council, when they weren't directly elected to Metro, got together and blocked any reform because North York, Willowdale and York Mills would lose, the city of Toronto would lose. So they got together, mustered the votes and blocked the change. That's all that happened. It was politics. They were afraid of their own political hides, nothing more, nothing less. It was crass. To continue the argument today essentially makes no sense to me.

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What you've had happen in recent years, the political dynamics of Metro have changed. What we witnessed several years ago, 1988, were direct elections to Metro. You change the political dynamics and the decision is a little different. That's all that happened. That's the only thing that opened the door for this compromise we have before us today. That's the only thing. In 1988 you have a direct election—and the Liberal government did that, caused direct elections to Metro—and Metro hammered out a compromise plan. Why? Because the political dynamics changed.

The mayor of North York couldn't whip his boys and girls all behind him together and vote as a block any more because they were no longer nominated by the council; they were directly elected and accountable to the people they served. So they hammered out a compromise which they forwarded back to the former Liberal government, based on 1984 values. They said, "This for us is fair." They were going to give full decreases to the residential sector, they were going to cap the commercial-industrial sector increases and their decreases as well.

What did the Liberals do? They sent it back. They said: "That's not good enough. We don't want it based on 1984 values. We want it more current, based on 1988." Why? Because they knew they were one year away from an election. They essentially had no guts.

The member for Eglinton stands in her place, and stood in her place yesterday, and talked about how with her input and with her will that decision was essentially sent back.

I see the former Minister of Revenue just walked into the chamber. He had a direct hand in this. He knows what he was doing. He knew what he was doing when he sent it back.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): I didn't send anything back.

Mr Perruzza: He essentially sent it back because he wanted no change, he wanted the debate to happen all over again. We all know what happened after that. Members in the suburbs, Liberal members in the suburbs, essentially took a beating.

I listened this afternoon to the wise advice from our member—

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Just a moment. I'd just like to say to the honourable member that there should not be any talking to and fro in the House. If you're going to address comments please do it through the Chair. I would request also that other members in the House refrain from interjections because they are perfectly out of order. I ask the honourable member for Downsview to continue.

Mr Perruzza: I sat by this afternoon and I listened to the wise advice from our friend the member for Etobicoke West, who delivered an eloquent speech, a speech similar to the one he delivered when he was a member of Metro council. He convinced me then, he convinced me again today, but is his position reflective of his party's position, of the Conservative Party's position with respect to this issue? No. Absolutely not.

For 42 years the Conservatives sat idly by and let this inequity happen. What did they do when they had chances to revamp the system, when they had an opportunity to bring the system to a more recent level and to a fairer level? I'll tell you what they did. They passed the buck.

Mr Mancini: Who did that?

Mr Perruzza: The Conservatives. They passed the buck.

Mr Mancini: No.

Mr Perruzza: Absolutely. They passed the buck.

In 1972 they introduced amendments to the act which essentially said to municipalities: "Look, if you want this to happen, you decide. You do it. You come back to us and you let us know and it'll automatically happen. We'll just return the rolls to you." That's what they did, they passed the buck. Passing the buck in Metro caused no change because Metro couldn't muster the votes to make change happen. Because we have no change, we have immeasurable inequities in the system.

I've listened to the arguments put forward by the city of Toronto members with respect to the residential portions with the 5% increases. This is going to cause a problem for people. If you get the full increase for a house that's reassessed in Metro that should be receiving a substantial property tax increase, those increases are capped to 5%. That's going to cause a problem for people.

Businesses are going to be put out of business en masse, absolutely, because if they receive a 25% increase over three years, then they're gone. They won't be able to stick around. They're not going to make it. What about the businesses and the properties in the newer neighbourhoods within Metro such as Downsview and such as Yorkview? What about those? Nobody cares about those.

When we witnessed the Metro debate, you saw all the "Stop MVA" signs. We all know it's usually the people resisting change who are going to be actively negatively impacted on. They're the ones who come out. They're the ones with the loudest voices. It's not the people who are going to get benefits from change, because they don't know about it. They don't trust politicians. They think every politician is just simply going to raise their taxes. Nobody believes they're going to get tax decreases. Absolutely not.

I'm going to quote some numbers for you. There are businesses in Yorkview and in Downsview and in newer parts of Metro that have for years been paying higher rates of tax. I look at Micro Machine and Tool on Oakdale Road. They're paying \$8,000 a year more than what they should be paying, and they're surviving. They've been paying this for years.

I look at W A Construction, again on Oakdale Road. They currently pay \$140,000 a year. They would go down to \$108,000. They're paying \$31,000 a year more than they should be paying, and they've been paying it for years. They're struggling to survive.

I look at Royalcrest Lifecare on Finch Avenue West. They're paying \$46,581 more per year than what they should be paying. They're struggling to survive, and they're making it. Conrad Beauty Ltd, the little shop on Norfinch Drive: \$13,715 more than they should be paying, and trying to survive.

I'll give you another statistic. That's the business side of it. I'm going to give you one more number and you contemplate this. Roxborough Drive: For some of you who don't know, this is north Toronto.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): No, it isn't. That's the city of Toronto.

1700

Mr Perruzza: The city of Toronto. I stand corrected. Roxborough Drive: From the statistics, a house currently valued at \$1,836 million is paying \$3,306 in property taxes. In North York, a house worth \$255,000 is paying \$3,434. They're paying more, a little working-class bungalow. If you factor in at roughly 25% of income, a guy making a household income of \$500,000 a year is paying \$3,000 in property tax. A household income of \$55,000 a year is paying \$3,400 in tax.

That, in a nutshell, is quite frankly what we're talking about. The Metro compromise isn't the best solution. It's not the best thing for these people. They don't get their full decreases, people who should be legitimately getting a decrease. But it's a compromise, and I commend this government and every member of this government who is going to stand in his or her place and vote in favour of some fairness, some equity and some justice.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Ruprecht: I know the member for Downsview is quite sincere in his comments, but there are some items in this discussion that really should be looked at more carefully. I would not want him to say, and people across the province of Ontario to believe, that the city of Toronto is against any form of tax changes. That simply is not the

case. There have been a number of proposals, and they have been made.

But above all, the member for Downsview should certainly know that you don't go into an area and propose massive changes that are going to affect people detrimentally right across the board, not only in the city of Toronto but in other places as well, without any impact studies.

What I would like the member for Downsview to address himself to is the question of economic impact studies. Does he not realize what would happen? He's quoting us all kinds of different cases, but what he has not told us and cannot quote to us, apparently, or he is unable to, is to tell us how many people will be pushed out of their homes, how many seniors are going to be unable to pay the taxes.

What is going to be the repercussion on the whole city? What are we going to do here, when the economy is lousy at this stage of the game? And in terms of our business infrastructure and structures and businesses on our main streets, when they are being forced to close, what will he say then? Does he not realize there's going to be an economic blight created in this city?

The residents from his own riding are going to the city of Toronto to work. They don't just come from the city; they come from his place, and that is why they're able to afford the taxes they have been asked to pay. So please address yourself to the facts, and I would hope to get a response.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Harnick: I listened intently to the very fine speech made by the member for Downsview. I grapple with this issue because it's a very difficult issue. But one of the things he says strikes me. He says that people who are against this government plan, against this piece of legislation that's now before us, are resisting change. At the same time, he also tells us that market value as it's being proposed is not fair. It is not fair—that's what he said—and he said, "But even though it's not fair, you shouldn't be resisting change."

When a piece of legislation is supported and it's not fair, it makes me wonder, how we can go down the path blindly? How can we be led to vote for something where somebody is supporting it and at the same time he says it's not fair? It strikes me that what we should be doing is to look for something that is fair. We should be looking for something that can be better.

We should be looking for something that isn't pitting Scarborough against North York and North York against Toronto and Toronto against Etobicoke and ending up with a package at the end of the day that my friend quite candidly and very honestly, and I applaud him for it, says is not fair.

You'll never convince me to vote for this bill when in the same breath you tell me it's not fair. I remind the member of the position of his party. His party, in resolution 6.2.2(3), is opposed to any further implementation of market value.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Mammoliti: I commend the member for Downsview because it was a very good speech. The member for Willowdale talks about pitting one against the other. Let me tell you something, Mr Speaker: If you were to ask me, as the member for Yorkview, where my heart lies, it's Yorkview. If you ask me who I'm here to represent, it's Yorkview.

If you ask me who my heart should bleed for, the individual on Forest Hill who owns a home of \$2 million who can probably afford this time and time again or that senior the member for Parkdale talks about, that senior in Yorkview who pays \$3,000 property tax, receives a fixed income of maybe \$12,000 or \$13,000, and some of them even live off of cat food because of it, because of the pride, they want to keep their home, where's my heart going to bleed? My heart's going to bleed for the senior who's eating cat food, not the \$2-million home owner who can probably afford the increase. Where does my heart bleed? My heart bleeds for Yorkview.

My heart bleeds for the businesses on Oakdale Road and Norfinch Drive and along Finch that are going to benefit from this. And they're even having to take a compromise. This is not 100%. They're having to take 40% the first year, 10% the next, and I don't hear any of them screaming. I don't hear any of them yelling and saying, "Why is this happening?" I haven't had any rampages along Finch Avenue or down Islington saying, "Why are they doing this to me?" My heart bleeds for them.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Ms Poole: The member for Downsview made two statements which I totally agree with: first, that market value is not a fair form of taxation and, second, that the Metro plan was not a good plan.

But there are a couple of things he said that I have to correct. The first is that he has insisted that it was the city of Toronto and the city of North York that blocked reform and resisted change, that they have offered no alternative, that they've opposed any form of update. This is totally wrong. There have been several proposals made; the latest, several years ago, was unit assessment. It was a very well thought out proposal. The cities of Toronto and North York councils requested that Metro take a look at it, do a review of it, do an impact study of it. Metro refused.

It is Metro that has refused change. It is Metro that is wedded to market value assessment, even though people like the member for Downsview, the members for Eglinton and York Mills and Willowdale and Parkdale all agree that it is not a good system. It is Metro that has refused to look at the inequities between tenants and home owners. They've refused to look at the inequities between how small businesses and large businesses are taxed. They are the ones that have resisted change.

The other point he made was that the city of Toronto is undertaxed. The city of Toronto provides 20% of the revenue for the province of Ontario—20%. How dare you say we are undertaxed? We provide \$316 million more per year out to the suburbs for education than we use for our own schools. We give that to the suburbs. We subsidize the

suburbs for transportation. Fifteen per cent of the gross domestic product in Canada is south of Bloor Street. We have done very well for the suburbs and please don't forget that.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Downsview has two minutes to respond.

1710

Mr Perruzza: I'll just respond very briefly to, essentially, the three positions—the one from Parkdale, where businesses would en masse go out of business because we lack impact studies, and the issue of “Why would you vote for it if it's not fair?” and I would disagree with that as well.

To the first, businesses, as the member for Parkdale will know, get to deduct their property taxes 100%. So, essentially, when that deduction happens, a large chunk of the business property tax increase is swallowed up by both the provincial and federal governments. Yes, some of it is picked up by the actual proprietor of the business; we all know that. But if the business is making a profit, and on an income statement that can be carried back three years and forward seven, generally most of that increase will be absorbed by a property tax deduction—a 100% deduction, I may add, on a sheet. So, yes, businesses are going to be impacted on in some of the older neighbourhoods, but I dare say that impact is not going to be as stark as some of the members would have us believe.

Why, if this isn't the fairest system we could possibly have, am I going to support it? I'm going to support it because I respect Metro's authority in generating this compromise. They're well within their authority to do so, and I applaud them for having done it. That's why I'm going to support them in their initiative. Metro, quite frankly, has taken a very, very courageous step, a courageous decision. They've met and they've come to a compromise, a compromise I would urge every member of this Legislature to support.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: Since the creation of Metro council, there has been no other issue as divisive as market value assessment. It comes to a point even where the chairman of Metro council is under special police protection and forced to wear a bulletproof vest.

Metro council is normally reasonable and hardworking, and I speak from experience, having been on Metro council from 1978 until 1981. That reasonable lot today are accusing each other, and in this volatile mix they're calling each other fascists and communists and all kinds of names under the sun. The attacks have been so vicious and so personal that they can only be described as character assassinations, and the bickering, of course, is endless.

But the discussion we're undertaking today takes place under one overriding fact, and that is, whatever accommodation was made when Metro was founded, it turned out to be really successful, and, in fact, the envy of urban analysts and urban planners and all those people who like to live in an urban centre, right across the globe. It attracted people from all countries to come to Toronto, and in fact

Metro Toronto. Our city—and Metro Toronto—has won international honours and awards time and time again. For what? For a city that works. We today can be proud of that city.

The mayor of Toronto has sent a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It is well prepared, and for the record I'd like to ensure that full consideration be given to that summary.

The minister's statement of November 5, 1992, to the Legislature asserted that the province will not allow Metro Toronto to implement full market value assessment in 1997. Therefore, and logically, there should be no intention to impose market value assessment in 1993.

Nevertheless, certain classes of property have been singled out for full market value tax increases. I spoke about them earlier in my two-minute remarks. These classes have been established, certainly without protective caps: residential property except apartment buildings sold in the next five years; development sites, which I spoke about, currently vacant; rail rights of way; utility corridors; and properties for which grants are paid in lieu of taxes. If, as the minister has stated, we are not moving to full market value, why should any property be treated in such a discriminatory fashion? Is this defensible?

The economic impact of full 1988 market value taxes on these properties will be felt immediately because, as you will remember, 1988 was at the height of the real estate market. Therefore, equity in residential property in this city, and some parts of area municipalities as well, is already devalued by the recession. They will be further eroded by the imposition of market value assessment at point of sale.

GO Transit's share of the railway property and those taxes will increase by \$11.2 million, from \$3.8 million to \$15 million, annually. If this extra cost is passed through to the commuter it will add about 45 cents to the price of a trip to Toronto or an increase of about \$240 a year to GO Transit commuters living outside Metro Toronto.

Hydro rights of way will attract an additional tax of approximately \$30 million to \$40 million. As with the increase of GO Transit fares, this will have to be offset by increases to hydro costs. Paid by whom? Of course, by the ratepayers throughout Ontario.

Vacant land slated for commercial or residential development anywhere in Metro will be taxed at the full market value rate, unless the land can be used as a car park or some other interim commercial use.

In the city of Toronto both CN, the real estate arm, and Marathon Realty Co estimate that these additional tax costs, combined with the current state of the economy, will further delay the public benefits and job creation related to new development on railway lands.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has stated that rail jobs will be lost if Metro's tax scheme is passed by the province. Because the railways have been excluded from the capping provisions of the Metro plan, the rail companies will have to pay about four and a half times more than they currently pay. The union therefore has indicated that full Metro MVA will result in a tax increase of about \$45.5 million for CN and approximately

\$20 million for CP. The rail unions feel that these huge increases will have a direct impact on the development of the railway workers and on rail operations across the province. The Metro plan unfairly transfers its burden to the rail transportation industry in Ontario. These additional costs will also shift freight from rail to trucks, with the attendant impact on highways and the environment.

In 1992 the Parking Authority of Toronto, as I'd mentioned previously, paid \$6.7 million in local taxes. Under the Metro scheme the parking authority would pay \$19.4 million, an increase of \$12.7 million. The Parking Authority of Toronto simply cannot shoulder this burden and will have to close its operation, putting 300 people out of work.

In the recently completed study of the impact of Metro's scheme on its lands, the Toronto harbour commission calculated that the impact of Metro's scheme will double taxes on port industrial land from \$12.3 million to \$25.9 million. Given that in many cases these lands are polluted and would require an extensive and costly cleanup to have any market value at all, these new values bear no relation to the current market reality. How then can these lands be leased to encourage industrial development in the city?

The implementation of this scheme was so poorly planned that Metro was unaware of many of the potentially devastating impacts of its plan. Often, it was only the city of Toronto's analysts that identified the potentially devastating economic impact on additional sectors of the economy. After overcoming Metro's initial refusal to share the assessment tapes, the city obtained them and was able to begin its own analysis.

For example, the city identified that severe loss of equity in small businesses would have resulted if market value assessment was imposed at point of sale. The huge increases that threatened to put non-profit cultural, artistic and theatrical operations out of business were identified, and now the equally serious impact of this Metro scheme on utility rates, commuter fares, job losses in the rail industry are all the result of a market value assessment plan that is fundamentally and basically flawed.

1720

No amount of tinkering can protect everyone from the economic impact of a tax scheme based on the volatile real estate market and the highly speculative land values of 1988. The logic of these points lead us directly to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs: Why not do economic impact studies before he and his party are ready to impact such a scheme on the people of Toronto?

The questions were asked before by speaker after speaker and they are simple: Where are the studies of the economic impact of this plan? Where are the studies of its impact on jobs? Where are the studies of its impact on businesses? Where are the studies of its impact on the people of Toronto? We all know, of course, what the answers are. It's simple. There are no economic impact studies. We don't know how this plan will affect every resident who of course has to increase the taxes he or she will have to pay.

I think it's easy to understand: If a vast number of people are going to be affected negatively in this way and if there will be a number of job losses and business closings, can we be prepared to support this scheme or should we open our eyes and make the necessary changes so that the impact will be mitigated to the point where people can live with the changes?

That is why we've been consistently calling for public hearings. I'm delighted to say they will now take place, and we encourage people to come and speak out against the plan that is flawed. Consequently, we would be very delighted to see those members especially attend these committee hearings who have said they will change their minds if the facts will be provided.

I believe the facts and the arguments will be reasonable and I believe even the NDP will open up the process to the point and follow the leadership provided by the Liberal Party and by the Progressive Conservative Party to open up and permit every member of this Legislature a free vote. Then we will see what the minister and the various ministers of this cabinet will have to say, because without a free vote we will never know who is hiding under which carpet.

Finally, simply let me say this: I only hope that when these public hearings take place, and they will take place very soon, those who are interested in ensuring that this city will still be in a good shape—that we will be internationally recognized and when the Premier goes to Asia and other countries across the world, he will hear the same words, that Toronto is a special place, Metro Toronto is a special place of which we can be very proud.

But with this scheme imposed on a population unwilling to take it to heart, I'm not sure we're going to be making progress. Let me simply say that when the study was done, when the surveys came in—and I'm referring to October 22, 1992, the most recent survey—it is very clear what the people of Metropolitan Toronto are saying: 75% of those surveyed said they think a plan to implement market value assessment for Metro property taxation would lead to business closings and 70% said a loss of jobs would occur.

The final question I simply want to ask you today is, if indeed businesses are closing, if indeed jobs are being lost, can we sit idly by and see a city begin to rot at the core, or are we willing to make some changes and permit everyone to say: "This is a great place. Let's continue this tradition"?

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Questions and/or comments?

Ms Poole: I would certainly like to commend the member for Parkdale on his excellent speech today. He has put forward quite eloquently the position of the city of Toronto and some of the difficulties that specific businesses and specific operations have with this.

The member for Parkdale represents an area which doesn't have \$2-million homes, as referred to by the member for Downsview, and quite frankly my riding of Eglington doesn't have \$2-million homes either. That's not what we're talking about protecting. We are talking about very small homes, middle-class homes, and when earlier it was

suggested that they would be 1,500 to 2,000 square feet in size, I thought, oh, my goodness, that would be a palace.

But that's not what the member for Parkdale is talking about when he talks about the homes in the city of Toronto. We would be glad if they were that big. We're talking about homes with 23- to 25-foot frontages which have no room for a driveway; there are alleyways on either side of the house. We are not talking about mansions. We're talking about ordinary people with ordinary homes.

This government and the previous Liberal government and the Conservative government before that have all talked about how we wanted to encourage intensification, how we wanted to make the best use of density, and the city of Toronto was looked on as a model for using intensification. But instead what this market value plan will do is to encourage urban sprawl, because a house in Scarborough with a 100-foot lot will pay less taxes than one with a 25-foot lot in the city of Toronto. It goes the opposite direction, so I would ask these members to rethink that.

Mr Stockwell: I've heard much comment from the member for Parkdale—I'm not certain about the member for Eglinton, but definitely from the member for Parkdale—about this impact study. I would like you to elaborate on specifically what you mean by an impact study. I'd like to know what your terms of reference would be for this impact study and exactly how you would measure what it is you'd like to measure.

Maybe for your sake to jump ahead and assume your response, if your impact study is, is it going to affect people's taxes and whether or not they pay more, then we all assume, yes, of course, it's going to affect people's taxes and now they're going to pay more. If it's going to affect the fact of whether or not these people can afford to pay more, then of course it may well affect that as well, being called your typical impact study.

Therefore I would ask this second question: If you're prepared to do an impact study on market value assessment and those people who are getting increases, would you also be in favour of doing an impact study, if you don't institute market value reassessment, on those people who don't get their decreases?

It seems to be what's good for the goose is good for the gander, so would people who are hardship cases now, who are overpaying their taxes, not deserve the same equitable and fair treatment as those who are getting an increase under market value assessment?

It only makes sense to me, because it would tell you probably the same thing. If you don't get a reduction in your taxes, there's going to be hardship cases and if you get an increase in your taxes, there's going to be hardship cases.

If that's what you're looking for in the way of an impact study, it seems rather fruitless, and if it's not what you're looking for, then what exactly are you looking for?

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Mammoliti: I'm not going to be as aggressive as I was earlier. I'm going to be somewhat compassionate at this point. I understand the points people are trying to

make here, and I also understand that we need some meaningful property tax reform. I've always been an advocate of meaningful property tax reform. I continue being an advocate of meaningful property tax reform. I have never agreed with the educational portion of property tax. I don't think that's the way we should be collecting it. I have been an advocate in my community and within caucus in saying that it's time for a change.

Everybody is overtaxed; I'm not saying they're not. My argument today is about who can afford it and who can't, because that's what I'm looking for in this particular agreement. The people in Yorkview can't afford to continue paying the taxes they're paying, so what other alternative do they have? This is meaningful to them for the time being.

1730

In the meantime, we have some advocates. I supported the member for Downsview last week in his bid to change the property tax structure here in Ontario. I'm going to continue doing that, and I still think there's some hope. I still think that will eventually happen. When that does happen, you're going to get, for the most part, the same people complaining out in the streets, the people who are going to have to pay a little bit more in terms of a new structure. We'll talk about that later.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant in questions and/or comments. Seeing none, the honourable member for Parkdale has two minutes in response.

Mr Ruprecht: I wanted to respond to both the member for Etobicoke West and the member for Yorkview, and I want to thank them for their questions. The member for Etobicoke West is asking, "What will these economic impact studies look like and how useful will they be and what will you examine?" He should know the answers to those questions.

The first point is that we want to examine how many jobs are being lost. What would he say if he finds that 100,000 to 150,000 jobs would be lost because of market value assessment implementation? Would he then change his mind? I think the member for Etobicoke West would be quite reasonable, once confronted with this kind of fact. He would say, "No, we cannot proceed with implementation of this plan."

What about when businesses are closing? What about that? Will he be prepared to say, "I'm changing my mind," if he finds that 50,000 to 80,000 businesses that will be directly affected and consequently will go bankrupt are hanging on by the skin of their teeth for a few more days or for a few more weeks before they are forced into bankruptcy? Will the member from Etobicoke then say, "No, the member for Parkdale is right"?

We cannot have these economic impact studies and sit by and simply let the city of Toronto be destroyed simply because the people from Etobicoke are working in the city of Toronto. The people from Etobicoke are also coming down and using the transit systems and also have some of the businesses in the city of Toronto.

His question, of course, is a good one when he asks, "What will these impact studies look like?" These studies will tell us once and for all what the impact on the economy will be and where the rot will set in. Once this gets into place, is he prepared to walk down on Yonge Street, to drive down on Queen Street West, to drive down along Danforth Avenue and see businesses closing, business after business being bankrupt? Is he prepared to do that?

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I want to say at the outset that I will be opposed to this plan. I actually wish we had spent as much time debating some of the tax issues of this government. It's interesting when I sit and listen to the members on the back bench. We had \$1 billion worth of increases in taxes in the last budget. The member for Downsview sits three rows back, around 11 seats over from the Premier, and he didn't say one word to the Premier about those tax increases. Quite frankly, I wish the people who are standing up so clearly here would stand up and represent their members when they're dealing with their own Premier—during that period of time, \$1 billion.

Remember that election campaign when Bob Rae said: "Yes, you're right. Harris is right. The taxes are too high, but don't worry. I'm going to be the one to come in, and the people who are going to pay are the rich people"? That's who they pitted against. Then in the last budget, the tax increases that came in were 14% on anybody making \$53,000. It's the same principle here. The same people who are talking about these taxes are the same people who said nothing.

At the outset, I would like to say I wish we would spend as much time dealing with provincial taxes as we are on this matter. Let me say, the situation is very simple. Regardless of party, regardless of ideology, if your taxes are going up, you're opposed to this plan. If your taxes are going down, you support it. We've heard people on both sides: "It's fair" or "It's not fair." "We've got these people who are being hurt, we've got these people..." The crux of the matter is that if your taxes are going down, you like it, and if your taxes are going up, you do not like it. So let's not talk about fairness, let's not talk about unfairness. The fact of the matter is, people are voting along their own lines based on what's going to happen to them, with very little regard for the other person. They're only looking at it from their own special interest on both sides of the issue.

There's been a lot of talk about the people who came in here and are paying undue taxes. The fact of the matter is, each and every one of those persons knew what the taxes were when they moved in. The basic principle I have against this bill is that they changed the rules of the game in the middle of the game for the people. When I go out and buy a home with my wife, we look at all the factors, but we knew what they were and we knew there'd be gradual increases in taxes, as there always are. What we did not know in the case of market value is that the rules would be changed dramatically.

The reason I'm opposing it is that I'm concerned about some of the people who can least afford it, some of the seniors. People are acutely aware of their property values.

I remember in the last election campaign going up to a house in my riding. As everyone will remember, it was a nice summer election. The lady was pruning the trees with some shears, and when I went up the driveway, she said, "If you're with the Liberals, I'm going to use these on you." The reason was because of the downloading that had happened. This nice lady, if I can remember correctly, had come over from Ireland and I think her husband had come over from another country. She said, "We had always thought we were going to have our senior years where we were going to be able to relax." They were being thrown out because of the property taxes.

With this issue I'm concerned about the seniors who are going to be hit with tax increases who did not know it when they moved in there. It's interesting when we look back, and I look at the figures. It's kind of ironic. We talk about the 1942 assessment, I guess it was, the 1940 market values, 1954. It's ironic that the vast majority, or a lot of the people in there, weren't even alive during that period of time. So you've got seniors who came in and didn't know and didn't expect these increases. That's who I'm concerned about, some of the most vulnerable people.

On the other hand, you've got other people saying, "Well, there are going to be some decreases for those people." The fact of the matter is, most of those people knew that when they moved in there. They knew what their taxes were and moved in based on a lot of those facts.

Quite frankly, I think this government did not want to deal with this whole issue. We had to force the hearings on this, because I think they wanted to sweep it under the rug. The big reason is that, in opposition, the NDP fought strongly against that. Marilyn Churley, Mr Silipo, Margery Ward, Elaine Ziemba and Zanana Akande, all these people said they were opposed to it. It will be interesting to see what happens when the vote comes up.

The problem we've got with this government is that the same principles that are happening provincially with the tax increases are happening here. It's interesting to note their resolution 6.2.2(3). The NDP adopted a resolution that said, "The NDP opposes any further introduction of market value assessment." So it's interesting that all the NDP members are now talking in support of this, saying it's the fairest way of doing it. Quite frankly, that isn't what they ran on in the last election campaign. But I shouldn't be too surprised, because the flip-flops on those issues have been dramatic in other areas as well.

I'm also concerned about some of the businesses, and there have been a lot of figures thrown back and forth, people saying this amount of business will be hurt, this amount of business will benefit. Again, the same principle is that the people who got in knew what they were paying in taxes, and the people I feel sorry for are the ones who are going to get major increases that they didn't expect.

1740

We've all received the faxes. I've received the faxes, like the rest of the members, from some of the railways, and we've heard a great deal about GO Transit and Hydro. I won't get into too many of the details because, quite frankly, if I closed my eyes and listened, both sides are

arguing facts and figures, how everybody's going to be helped.

My basic principle on this is that the people who are going to benefit from this when they bought their homes or businesses knew what they were paying in taxes and they made those decisions at that time with the facts in front of them. The people who are going to be affected by this are the ones who are having the rules of the game changed midway.

The government and some of the members spoke eloquently about helping the city of Toronto. I don't know if the members realized, but the commercial concentration tax that was implemented by the previous government here takes \$100 million out of Toronto. So, quite frankly, at a time when we've got the tax increases, I would suggest to some of the members who are concerned, as even the members who are supporting this are, about what's happening in Toronto, take a look at some of the other taxes, the provincial taxes, and what they are doing to the city of Toronto.

Quite frankly, the problem we've got with this whole tax increase is that governments at all levels and of all political stripes have been overtaxing, they've been overspending during the last few years and, for this particular group, there will be a tremendous effect and it will be the last straw.

What the figures will be, quite frankly, I don't think we're going to know until afterwards. After it's done, we're going to hear how many businesses were lost and how many moved out. I'm afraid that the consequences will be disastrous for a great deal of the businesses and home owners in Toronto.

It's interesting too that the group that has been fighting this—and everybody's talking about this whole issue. I hope that governments at all levels will take a hard look at the spending patterns that have led to these dramatic increases in taxes. Quite frankly, aside from this, in this province we're still the highest-taxed province in Canada and the highest-taxed jurisdiction in all of North America.

The problem we've got is that when a government does decide to decrease taxes, as happened in the last federal budget, what happened is the next provincial budget that came in, the provincial government increased the exact amount that the federal government had reduced it, and what we have to remember during this whole process is that even though there are three or four levels of government, there is only one taxpayer.

So I hope that in the future in this Legislature we'll have as much time debating the principles of taxation when they deal with a provincial nature as we did on this one.

I'm looking forward to the hearings. Quite frankly, like most of the people, I spent time each night on TV watching what was going on with the various groups and hearing from the groups that were affected, by way of television. I'm looking forward to hearing from those same groups coming in and talking about their particular cases because I don't believe any of the politicians in here when they say, "Here are the figures and here's what's going to happen," and "These people are going to benefit and these people

aren't going to benefit," and "Oh yes, they are," and "No, they're not." I want to hear from people on both sides of the issue and, quite frankly, I'm glad that we're going to be having the hearings, so that people can come forward on this particular issue.

In my own region in Halton, we went through this. If you think you've got difficulties here, in the region of Halton they passed the market value assessment on a region basis and the vote was tied. The vote was tied and the regional chairman broke the vote. So if you think you've got problems in Metropolitan Toronto, in Halton region, literally, the vote was broken by the chairman. In Halton a lot of people saw what was going on in the Legislature with Toronto and thought that it would come here like the Toronto one was, but it will not of course.

What has happened in this is you've got region pitted against region; you've got streets pitted against streets. I've heard debates in here about this group who lives on this street is going to benefit and this group is going to not benefit. Members are talking about other members' ridings where it's split. Quite frankly, it comes down to one principle and one principle only: Anybody who is getting a reduction likes it; anybody who is getting an increase does not like it.

I will close very quickly here because I know there are a couple of other speakers. The concern we've got on this in the communities and the divisions will linger for many years, and I wish we could have as much debate on the whole spending issue, also at the Metro level, as we do on this taxation issue.

We're going to be looking very carefully at the members on the other side. You've heard some of the other members on our side talk about it, some of the references to the divisions, but each and every one of them will be here to stand up for what they believe in. I hope the other side, the people who ran in the last election based on the promise to either defend or oppose this legislation, will do so when it comes to this Legislature.

I hope the members will have the political courage to come in and vote on it. I'm not one of the ones affected, because obviously, coming from Oakville, none of my ridings are affected like this. But I hope each and every one of the members who will be affected will listen to the hearings, listen to the members who are going to be affected in a way I think most of them will, in a comprehensive way, and make the decision based on the facts, not listen to the politicians on both sides, of all political stripes, arguing back and forth, but listen to the people and make the choice.

I will be opposing this piece of legislation, but I hope the other members will take as much time to take a look at this particular legislation and make the right choices, because a lot of lives are going to be affected by this and a lot of businesses are going to be affected by this. I hope at the end of the day the impact will not be so great that we will have destroyed one of the greatest cities in one of the greatest provinces in the greatest country in the world.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I'm delighted to hear that the member for Oakville will be voting against this particular piece of legislation and I want to congratulate him, but also to tell him that yes, he is indeed affected by this. There are not only people in the city of Toronto affected by it; there are people across Ontario, especially the residents of Oakville, because what will happen is that the GO Transit share of railway property taxes will increase by \$11.2 million. That will directly impact on the residents of Oakville because they will have to come up with 45 cents more every time they come to Toronto. There are hundreds, I might even say thousands, of people coming to Toronto from Oakville, working there and having businesses there and so on. That's an increase of \$240 a year for every resident if they want to take the GO train. While I'm delighted he will be opposing this, the point is that residents will be affected everywhere.

Finally, let me simply say this: I would also appreciate it if he could possibly address himself to the economic impact studies, because he has said we're living in Toronto, in a very special place, which I certainly believe and I know most members believe when they travel abroad. It's one of the best cities; it's a special place; it's a place that has no equal across the world and there are thousands of people who wish and pray they could come to Toronto to live here.

Why is that? Are we then prepared to destroy that kind of fragile economic balance that is now necessary to maintain this place, or are we ready to shift the taxes into Toronto and possibly destroy it by creating some economic rot right in the centre of this economic engine that might drive this province and this country out of economic stability? Are we willing to do that or are we willing to take a chance and make the necessary changes and say no to this particular scheme?

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for York Mills.

Mr Turnbull: Indeed, a lot of the comments that my colleague the member for Oakville South had are so apropos. One of the things he mentioned was the fact that there's only one taxpayer, and that hits home so many times.

Right here in the centre of this province, which is the highest source of revenue for the whole country, and in fact Toronto is the generator of the greatest amount of revenue for this province, we're seeing businesses going into bankruptcy every day. The suggestion is that these businesses are not paying their fair share of taxes. Hocus-pocus. The reality is that they are paying large amounts of tax but, unfortunately, you say that based upon the market value of the building, that is the tax they should be paying.

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Why on earth should you pay taxes based upon the value of the building, particularly if you're the tenant? What relationship is there between the value of the building and your ability to pay or your consumption of services there are? There are plenty of buildings in areas that are getting reductions where the tenants are doing exactly

the same amount of business as the tenants in buildings that are getting increases.

If the increases were such that it brought it up to the level of the decreases so that you had an even playing field, I wouldn't be objecting to it, but that is not the case because of the skew you have in the value of properties based upon this 1988 bubble where certain properties went up disproportionately to others. That gives the impression that they have a higher ability to pay.

As we drive businesses out of downtown Toronto and out of Metro, we are not going to be the beneficiaries. Even the people who receive tax deductions are going to find that the economy is going to be a lot meaner and a lot leaner than they ever anticipated. That's exactly what we do by attacking these businesses during this recession with 1988 values.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Ms Poole: I was pleased to hear in the speech of the member for Oakville South that he plans to vote against this legislation. He raised a number of very valid points—the point that when people buy a home or buy a business, they go in with the expectation that these will be the taxes and there will be the normal increases in taxes that any resident or business is subject to. But they know what they can afford when they go in. I think that's a very valid point.

The member for Parkdale, in commenting on the member for Oakville South's speech, mentioned the fact that residents in Oakville are going to have to pay that extra 45 cents for their GO Transit ticket for every trip they take. But there's going to be another impact on Oakville that I'm not sure the member for Oakville South is aware of. That's the fact that Ontario Hydro has been very hard hit. They are not capped, their lands are not capped and they will be subject to the full increase of market value assessment. Those lands in downtown Toronto are going to be very hard hit. The estimates I saw, I believe, were that Hydro was going to be hit by a \$50 million per year increase.

If you look at what that means for every taxpayer and every residence of Ontario, it is going to mean an increase in their hydro rates. It's going to mean an increase right across the province to pay for Metro's plan. I don't think this is fair to Hydro. I certainly don't think it's fair to the member for Oakville South's constituents. I don't think it's fair to the member for Brantford or the member for Cochrane South. I don't think that was what was intended. I think when Metro put this in it was treating Hydro as a cash cow, and it's the constituents across Ontario who will pay for that.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Stockwell: Firstly, I didn't get the answer from the member for Parkdale for the impact studies. He went on a political assault and chose to examine just one warped-view side of the argument.

Maybe I'll put the same question to the member for Oakville South with respect to the impact studies. Are you

in favour of impact studies for market value assessment? If so, are you in favour of impact studies should it be implemented, and then impact studies if it is not implemented, on those people who don't get reductions and on those businesses that don't get reductions, and whether or not they cost people their jobs?

The other issue I'd like to address and I want ask the member for Oakville South about is this unit tax. This unit tax seems to be a tax that's reared its head on a couple of occasions. On each occasion it was squashed or put down by a majority of members of council, both local and Metro.

The question that's asked is, unit tax is based on the size of your house and the size of your lot. A poll tax is based on the number of people who happen to live in your house. In my opinion, they're very similar. Size of the lot and size of house are not based at all on your ability to pay and simply location has nothing to do with the assessment value.

If we don't have location tax and we just simply go with unit tax, are you in favour then of a unit tax, as opposed to market value assessment, or are you in favour of a poll tax? The question that needs to be asked to all members in the House who don't support market value assessment, don't support market value reassessment, is, what exactly do you support? Do you support a poll tax, a unit tax or some other form of tax that has proven to be inherently unfair and unacceptable to the vast majority of taxpayers in practically every region of this country?

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Oakville South now has two minutes in response.

Mr Carr: I'll be very brief. I guess the entire issue comes down to one thing, and I will say to the member for Etobicoke West what I said is that I didn't believe any politician on either side of the issue on this. I heard in the debates politicians saying X number is going to be hurt. I heard the other side saying, no, it's X number that is going to be helped by this.

That's the problem with this entire debate. If you closed your eyes and listened to it, you'd think you were talking to two different debates. The figures are being bandied about by groups, and some people are saying, put the studies together. The studies that are put together said X amount of commercial businesses will be hurt and X amount of individuals will be hurt. The other side says, no, they won't.

The principle I went by in what I said in my speech is that the fact of the matter is that when people bought their homes, they knew what it was. If the tax was high at the time, they bought that house knowing the tax was higher than it was in Scarborough or whatever. Everybody going into it knew what the taxes were.

What this does is change it dramatically in favour of one group over the other. When people made a decision to move to Scarborough or to Toronto, they factored a lot in. They factored taxes and they factored the cost of transportation, which, as the member suggests, may be affected by this. What I said in this whole issue is that I'm opposed to

changing taxes dramatically on people in the middle of the game.

There are some who will argue they're going to get benefits. I say to those people that they were surviving. They were not only surviving, most of them were prospering, they knew that when they came in, and you do not change the rules of the game dramatically. That's the reason I'm opposed to it, and I hope during the hearings what we will have is some debate where we deal with the facts, rather than politicians throwing facts and figures about on all sides of this House.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I wish to join the debate today on market value assessment. I believe it's an important issue. It's important to the people of my riding, the people from Bennington Heights, the people in Leaside, and the people in ward 2 and ward 3 and ward 4 of the borough of East York. This is an important issue and we want to recognize it.

I join with those people in the struggle on fair tax reform and in a fair and just system and I want to participate with the people of my riding for the improvement in a fairer tax system. I join with those people, and I am totally against full market value assessment.

Historically speaking, MVA is the system of course that we have, based on the 1940s for here in Metro, and the values were actually implemented from the 1940s. The last time they had an update was in 1953, and I believe it's a very unfair tax system. It's grown over the years, and there's been a lot of squabbling happening between communities and the province and the various other entanglement issues that have come up.

We have an overlap of taxes, and it's a system which is very convoluted and impacts mostly on working people and on groups of people who are unable to pay the system they are suffering with now, those groups being of course small businesses, which are tremendously hurt by increases in taxes, and also senior citizens.

I have a high percentage of seniors in my riding, second only to Victoria, British Columbia. I fear very much that they're already just barely managing to keep their homes and this will place a further burden on the tax increases on their properties. I hate to see many of these senior citizens having to lose their homes or leave the riding because they're unable to meet their tax bills. It's very painful to see so many houses for sale in my riding.

We have a beautiful home and a beautiful community and a beautiful quality of life in East York, and I'm sorry to see that it might be impacted. I have many single parents and many working people who are just making it now, many middle-class families, many young people just starting out who are going to be unable to afford this increase in tax.

It's a real burden and it's a real concern. I'm concerned that Metro has had no social or economic impact studies on the economic factors for single parents or senior citizens, for poor and middle-class families and the small businesses of my riding. This clearly, I believe, is an unfair system that is being proposed.

Our government has at least taken the leadership to share some of the responsibility with the municipalities, the federal government and our provincial counterparts, to develop a fair tax system, in terms of education and finance reform and the Fair Tax Commission, developing ways that are fair for everyone, the goal being, of course, to develop a system that's fair to the people who pay taxes.

I want to join in the struggle and join with the people of my riding. I'm totally against the implementation of full market value assessment and I believe the time is now and the time is right for government to react in a way that's fair and just for everybody. Let's not have any more

people blaming different levels of government; that's unacceptable.

I think the time is now for us to have a non-partisan approach and work together for an accountable, fair system; develop something that's for the people, a system where we have cooperation among all levels of government. That's what our government is trying to bring into this, which is social and economic justice for the people of this province.

The Acting Speaker: It now being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 26, at 10 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1802.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S.-D.-G. & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 26 November 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 26 novembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 26 November 1992

The House met at 1003.

Prayers.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

Mr Villeneuve moved resolution 21:

That, in the opinion of this House, when the next commission for the purpose of redistribution of Ontario electoral districts is established, the commission should be instructed to take into consideration the varying conditions, circumstances and requirements regarding representation as between rural and urban electoral districts, and the increase in geographic area of rural ridings after the redistribution of the 1970s and the 1980s, with the intention of creating three classifications of constituencies, urban, urban-rural, and rural, so as to limit the geographic area of rural ridings, and to a lesser degree that of urban-rural ridings, as well as the number of organized municipalities which members must represent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mr Villeneuve moves private member's notice of motion number 21. Pursuant to standing order 96(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes to make his presentation.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): First of all, I want to make sure that all members of this House realize that this is not a political manoeuvre, in any way, shape or form. If I become political in any way, which sometimes I do, I apologize, because this is meant to provide rural Ontario with representation that is worthy, and by that I mean that we do not expand the geographic areas simply to encompass numbers of people.

In the riding I represent—and I will be touching on that—I tell people that they come into Ontario on Highway 401 and one third of the distance to Toronto is within the riding I represent. That's a very large geographic area.

This resolution, in my opinion, is necessary, firstly, to establish that there is a need to recognize the very special characteristics of rural ridings: low population densities, many municipalities and of course many rural routes. In my area, my metropolis is a great little town known as Alexandria, with slightly more than 3,000 people. The second-largest community is Kemptville, with around 2,500 to 2,600 people. All of the rest of our so-called urban areas are communities, towns, villages in the area of 2,000 or less population.

You can appreciate that to get to the population criteria is very difficult, particularly whenever we have ministries such as Municipal Affairs and Environment, which create great difficulties in trying to increase the population. Yes, we have many areas where the land is marginal and municipalities would love to see residences that would bring taxpayers and indeed residents to rural Ontario. I said that as a member of the government back prior to 1985 and I've been saying it in opposition ever since. I can appreciate

that some of the government members run into the very same problems that we in the opposition run into. They may express their concerns in a slightly different way, and I appreciate that. However, the concerns are there, and this motion is to recognize the special needs of large geographic rural areas in this province.

Secondly, it's to give a clear direction to the government and to any future commission in establishing terms of reference and in drawing riding boundaries. I well recall going through the last redistribution, where many people objected to the anticipated redistribution of ridings and where, in many instances, parts of rural Ontario were tagged on to urban areas just to get the population criterion up and yet their common interests were not at all the same as the areas where the urban centres were located.

Thirdly, it's to give some hope to rural parts of the province that they will not be ignored, as indeed they are, agricultural and rural areas, and it's to remind future commissions of the precedent that was set right here in this province in 1962.

As we debate this motion, I want members of the government and members on this side to address some of the problems that they have been faced with, particularly those who have large geographical rural areas. I'll use my own riding, for instance, with 23 very active municipalities in parts of four counties. They run into the problems of waste disposal and funding, and those have to be addressed. One can only be in one place at one time, of course, but you have many irons in the fire when you have 23 active municipalities in an area that is very economically depressed, as I've alluded to on a number of occasions.

I represent two county councils: Stormont-Dundas and Glengarry as the united counties and also parts of the united counties of Leeds-Grenville. You have, again, a diversity and a large community of interests. There are four school boards, plus we have a Christian school, again an area that you have to spend some time to address.

It doesn't really matter whether you're a Tory, a Liberal or an NDPer. The physical requirements of being in a number of places all at the same time cannot be solved, regardless of what party you're with. This is to provide adequate representation to those large rural areas.

There are two district health councils, three conservation authorities—South Nation River, Raisin Region and Rideau Valley—four federations of agriculture, soil and crop improvement associations in all of those counties, cattlemen's associations, fall fair boards and what have you—18 legion and veteran branches, just as an example. We have the lobby groups. We have many people with the problems that you have in the urban communities.

In my area, the riding, as most rural ridings, is made up of small business and farmers, both groups in some degree of economic difficulty. So we want to maintain a voice for rural Ontario by MPPs with ties and with roots in rural Ontario.

1010

The Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission has been asking for direction from this House prior to going into redistribution. This is what this motion is intended to provide them with: some guidance. We need to recognize, as is already done in northern Ontario—because of the geographic size of ridings in northern Ontario, there is a totally different set of rules.

As I've said, to me, population should only be one criterion. There should be a number of others that fall into place for these so-called rural ridings.

We have to have three different groups: the totally urban ones, and certainly there are many of those; the urban-rural ones, combination of a city, and we may need to provide a population criterion, whether the city be 5,000 or 10,000 or whatever; and if there is a large rural area attached to it, then it becomes a semi-urban/semi-rural riding.

In ridings such as the one I represent, and I think a number of others—I think we've gone through it and there are about 14 or 15 so-called rural ridings—the population is sparse, the area is large and it makes it very difficult for an MPP to do justice to the people of those types of ridings.

So to the electoral boundaries commission, I hope that this Legislature can send a clear signal today that indeed we would like to see redistribution. As I recall, it occurred back in about 1986 and it's scheduled for every 10 years, so it may not be before the next provincial election, and yet again it may be. We don't know when the decision will be made. However, I think when the commission members review the Hansard of this morning they will be provided with guidance and ideas as to how to go about redistribution when it next comes to the province of Ontario.

I look forward to the participation of all colleagues here in this Legislature this morning, their ideas and indeed some of the suggestions that they may put forth.

I hope that this motion will carry because I believe it has merit, and if we do not address this we will have an ever-weakening voice in rural Ontario, and that's where Ontario all began. This Legislature at one time sat only whenever farmers were not too busy on the land. I'm not asking for that at all, but I am asking that we recognize those many areas of rural Ontario which are having less and less influence on this Legislature.

I'll reserve the rest of my time to summarize.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I am pleased to get up and speak today in favour of this particular resolution and the principles and the ideas behind it.

I think Mr Villeneuve has certainly indicated some of the frustrations that politicians and the people within the municipalities have to put up with because of some of the changes that actually have taken place over the years, like the boundary changes.

My riding, for example, between 1985 and 1987—of course, I was elected as the member for Essex North. Essex North was mainly the northern part of the county of Essex and, in my opinion, it was a riding that you could service and service very well because you could go almost anywhere, driving, in 20 minutes and a half-hour.

I have a riding now they call Essex-Kent, which consists of 21 municipalities, quite similar to Mr Villeneuve's:

21 municipalities, the two counties, all the different school boards, the separate school board, the public school board, the French school board, the private boards in both counties.

Then I have two conservation authorities in that riding, and hospitals, even though they're not all in my riding. But I have to also deal with the hospital board in the city of Windsor, the hospital board in Kent county—the hospital is in Chatham—and then even London and Leamington, areas not directly in my riding, but of course people from my riding use that service.

One of the reasons I want to support this resolution is to take some of the politics out, because what happened in the Essex and Kent area, because of the redistribution—in fact we can take the party politics out of this thing. What really happened was, the rural community lost a representative between Essex county and Kent county. Now it takes me close to an hour and a half just to drive to one of my constituency offices. I have a constituency office in Ridgetown and one in Belle River. Like I say, in the riding before you were able to attend more functions in one evening or one weekend. Now you go to one and it's almost too late to get to the next meeting. So it makes it very, very hard.

I can't help but think, I found it very interesting that in 1985, when I did take that seat, people say, "Well, why did they do that to you?" I know we'll have people probably say, "Well, we never got involved." But it's rather interesting, because I was the only one in the province who took a Liberal seat in 1985 and they held that seat for 34 years.

Really what happened was that there was a couple of different members in that particular party. The way the redistribution was set at one point, it would have put those two Liberal members against one another for the nomination and they were not going to let that happen. I think that's sad. That's in the past, but I'm just hoping something like that never, ever happens again, because I learned what gerrymandering was in 1987. It's a shame, because maybe the party in power at the time was able to convince the commissioner of the day that things would be all that much better if redistribution went the way they wanted it to.

I agree with Mr Villeneuve that this type of resolution would certainly help some of the rural areas. I don't think they should be spread out. Even in northern Ontario I think it's important that they get the extra service out there, or maybe they don't have to have the population. At the same time, what happens here is in my riding—and the population is no different; the area is just twice as large—you have to service more people in more boards and municipalities.

I'm going to leave some time here for my colleagues. I'm sure they want to speak on this. I think the principle of this thing is certainly a step in the right direction. I hope the elections commission can look at things in the sense of serving the people of this province and not just for political reasons.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): It's always interesting to me when we attempt to take the politics

out of politics. I don't know. I can appreciate that perhaps this is not a partisan issue, but in many, many ways everything we deal with around here has a certain amount of that involvement.

I recently enjoyed success with a private member's bill that I think was—while I think there might have been some politics involved, the partisanship aspect was removed and I appreciated the support of all members of the House. So I can understand, when Mr Villeneuve makes the comment that this is not politically motivated, that he's saying it from a point of view that he cares about the administration of the province and the representation that occurs.

1020

I understand this motion perhaps better than the member might think, even though I represent what anyone would have to obviously refer to as the urban community of Mississauga. I can say, Mr Speaker, to you and all members that it's not very long ago that Mississauga was considered pretty rural, if you take a look at the recent history, going back to the days when the Premier of this province was a fellow from Peel by the name of Kennedy, a member of the current third party, the Conservative Party, and the whole history of the Kennedy family through Doug Kennedy, who served in this place in very rural days in Mississauga.

In fact it's not very long ago that Dundas highway was a two-lane dirt road and folks used to go to the 5th Line, which is now Erin Mills Parkway, to their cottages. That was their summer home. There are families still living there in those homes on the 5th Line, constituents of mine, who were the original settlers in that community, who actually worked down here in Toronto, had a home here and considered that their summer residence, and they would go by either very slow car or even buggies out to Mississauga. It's really quite amazing.

I was elected to city council in Mississauga in 1978. We have photographs in the late 1970s coming south from Britannia Road down Highway 10 and it's absolutely unbelievable to see the difference today. That's not very long; that's less than 15 years ago when there was not a building over two storeys back in those days in that area. It had farmers' fields that were actually cultivated. They weren't simply used for a tax dodge, which many developers do today. They plant some cow corn so that they can get the benefit of paying tax on the land as if it were agricultural, when in fact it's worth as much as a million bucks an acre, if you get right into the city centre.

So there is some history in Peel and in fact when the former Premier Kennedy was the Premier I would say the distances he had to travel would be very similar to the distances that the honourable member mentions and that other members—the member for Essex-Kent—mention. He would have represented dozens and dozens of local town councils and municipalities, all of which had concerns.

So while we can't really justifiably refer to it any more as the farming community of Mississauga, I can tell you in all seriousness that the community is steeped in rural history. In fact there was an article in the Mississauga News just

the other day that had a photograph of a man and a wife who still live in a home that is within shouting distance of the City Centre. They have no hydro, they have an out-house for their toilet facilities, they operate on propane, and this is today, right now, living there.

When Highway 403 was built, as a matter of fact, there were expropriations and there was a holdout and today, if you travel down a road off Creditview that doesn't even have a name and you cross the tracks and you go under 403, you'll come to a homestead that's surrounded by barbed wire and it's got a number of dogs in there and a fellow walking around with a shotgun. It's his land. In fact he was one of the original farmers in that community.

I just give you that background to say that while my city is clearly a city today, hustling, bustling and dynamic in every way, it's not many years ago that we were actively farming in Mississauga and very much a rural community.

Representation is rather important. In fact I spent a little bit of time this summer with the honourable member for Kenora, Mr Miclash, a caucus colleague of mine. He actually flies his own plane. It's not a plane of great sturdiness. I suggest, Mr Speaker, that a man of your girth might be somewhat nervous about getting into this plane with Miclash, let me tell you.

But he has to actually use that method of transportation or he would be unable to ever see some of his constituents. The only way to get in to see some of his constituents is to fly in a float plane and actually go in or, in the wintertime, go in on skis. He has to go miles and miles and miles. It's unbelievable, the size of this riding.

The issue becomes, how do you balance this need for representation by population with the need to actually service all constituents? Is one constituent in the province of Ontario less important than 100 or 1,000? This is where you get into the politics, because we know that this government is primarily concerned about servicing the areas and the ridings either that they hold or that they consider winnable. They're primarily more concerned about the NDP constituency, in my respectful submission, than they are about the Ontario constituency of all people throughout the province. It won't surprise me to see some reluctance to support this for fear that this may be seen by some members in the NDP as some method of dividing and conquering and splitting the representation so that they can't focus in on their own interest groups.

You know, not long ago last summer, you'll recall—

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Why is Mississauga so well treated?

Mr Mahoney: I'll give you a break, but I believe that to be true and I think most people in the province believe that you people will tailor your policies into areas where you think you can get the most political bang for your buck, as opposed to servicing the true needs of the people of this province.

I enjoyed the experience within the last year of travelling all over the province and talking to people who feel isolated, who feel they've been deserted, who feel that this government thinks of this as the province of Toronto. Well, I've got news for the government: This is not the province of

Toronto and there are indeed constituencies all over this province that need to have some attention paid to them.

The farmers are upset. They think that they're being ignored, that the Minister of Agriculture and Food doesn't really understand. Hard to believe, but that's what they think. Unless they're telling us one thing and they're telling these people another, they believe that they're being ignored.

People in eastern Ontario feel isolated. They feel that once you go along the 401 and you go by Oshawa, you know where eastern Ontario begins: it's where there are no longer any street lights. If you're driving there at night, you all of a sudden drive across this line where the lights disappear and you're driving into darkness. They feel, without a doubt, that Queen's Park doesn't know; they don't want to take that step beyond where the lights go off. They just may be a little bit afraid to go that distance.

The member in his resolution says by his implication that the special circumstances of northern Ontario have been recognized by this government. I'll tell you how they've been recognized. What this government did is it went into my home town of Sault Ste Marie and made a deal with everybody to save Algoma, which was vitally important, but didn't look at how Algoma could function in the modern economy, in the global market, to find new customers.

What did they do? They shored it up. They turned the workers at Algoma Steel, I say to the member for Sault Ste Marie, for whom I have some respect—I know he's a hardworking individual—but they turned the workers at Algoma Steel, who simply want, I suggest to you—

Interjection.

Mr Mahoney: —I'm glad I'm getting some attention over there—who simply want, I would suggest, to survive, to put their kids through school, and to lead reasonable lives, they've turned them into owners of the company. Now when Algoma faces a further restructuring, which I think the honourable member must agree is inevitable, it's the actual people in Sault Ste Marie who are going to be told that they've either got to be laid off themselves or members of their family are going to be laid off, or they're going to have to go next door to their lifelong friend and neighbour and say: "Sorry, buddy, you're out of work. You're out of a job."

Mr White: You'd rather have them out of work than participating in their economy. Typical left-wing rhetoric.

Mr Mahoney: So while I say to the member that the government may have recognized some of the geographic difficulties of northern Ontario—they may have agreed to the resolution by the honourable member for Parry Sound, Mr Eves—in fact it was our government that agreed to recognize Parry Sound as northern Ontario.

Many of the members here think northern Ontario is anything north of Steeles; they feel if they have to go any further than that, they'd better pack a lunch and take some warm clothing. They don't understand that it goes beyond just geography in recognizing northern Ontario. So I don't agree totally with Mr Villeneuve when he says that the special circumstances of northern Ontario have been rec-

ognized for some time. What's been recognized is perhaps the geographic differences in northern Ontario from what these people think of as the province of Toronto.

1030

But I suggest that they are playing games. They go into Kapuskasing and they use Hydro money. They use Hydro as a social instrument to save the business in Kapuskasing. Now, would anyone stand here and say that the people of Kapuskasing should not have been helped? Of course they should have been helped. But the government was primarily dishonest in going in there and telling them they were going to help them restructure the pulp mill in Kapuskasing and using Hydro money—not taxpayers' money, although ultimately it is; it's ratepayers' money—and now we see Hydro jacking up its rates, increasing the cost of hydro-electric power.

If Sir Adam Beck had ever thought for one minute that there would be a socialist government in Ontario that would use Ontario Hydro capital and Ontario Hydro debt capacity to go around bailing out businesses and riding in on white chargers pretending it's solving problems—Sir Adam Beck must have rolled over in his grave, I suggest to you. This is just an irresponsible attitude and game-playing, and that is why I say to the member, you can't take the politics—

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): What do you suggest we do, just close down the north? Are you suggesting we close it down?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Mahoney: Be honest. Go to the people in Kapuskasing and say, "We are prepared to get involved to help you restructure your pulp mill, and we're going to do it with taxpayers' money."

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Sault Ste Marie will please come to order.

Mr Mahoney: Don't try to hide behind some game and say to the people of the rest of Ontario: "Don't worry about this. We're bailing out Kapuskasing, but we're really not using the taxpayers' money; we're using Hydro's money." Well, let me tell you, talk to the people who get their hydro rate increases in their homes.

When Sir Adam Beck founded Ontario Hydro in this place, what he created was a tool for economic growth and advancement that made the province of Ontario the most competitive jurisdiction in Canada, perhaps in North America—

Mr Martin: It still is.

Mr Mahoney: —because of inexpensive hydro, inexpensive energy. The member for Sault Ste Marie is harping over there, saying, "And it still is." You don't understand. That's the problem. You believe it's still competitive. Businesses can't afford to pay the hydro bills. They can't afford to pay the adjustments you are wreaking upon the business community with your labour adjustments. With everything you have done you have destroyed the confidence of this community.

Mr Speaker, they're getting me off track; I want to get back to the issue.

I want to just give you one quick example I would throw out as a caution to the member about his resolution. The region of Peel is made up of Caledon, Mississauga and Brampton. There are five members on regional council from Caledon, six from Brampton and 10 from Mississauga. Anyone who can add says that's 11 for Brampton and Caledon together and 10 for Mississauga. What happens is that even though Mississauga represents the majority of the population, Brampton gets the courthouse, it gets police headquarters, it gets the regional headquarters, Mississauga gets the dump. It's 11 to 10 every time.

My only caution is that while I will support this, we have to be careful about ensuring that everyone has good representation in this province.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I am very pleased to rise for a few minutes and extend my support of this resolution and to comment for a few moments on the special needs of rural Ontario.

I was in my colleague's riding, the riding of S-D-G & East Grenville, last weekend, and I just want to begin by congratulating my colleague Noble Villeneuve for bringing forward this resolution today. I learned first hand of the special needs of his constituents and the vast geographical distances that are involved in his representing that particular riding. It's very similar to my own riding of Simcoe West, although I would have to say that Mr Villeneuve's riding is tremendously large and covers a great number of municipalities and interests.

The resolution calls upon the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission to take into account the varying conditions and circumstances which separate rural and urban ridings. In fact, the heart of the matter of the resolution is that it calls upon the government and the commission to recognize the special needs of rural ridings. The resolution asks the commission to examine the increase in area of rural ridings after the redistributions of the 1970s and 1980s, with the intention of creating three classifications of constituencies, urban, urban-rural and rural, in order to limit the area of rural and urban-rural ridings and the number of municipalities which members of this Legislature must represent.

In recent years, the size of rural ridings has been growing. Rural MPPs have tremendous demands on their time. They're required to work with and assist a large number of local councils, municipalities, counties, school boards and county organizations. Rural MPPs spend a great deal of time travelling within their ridings. Travel distances in an average rural riding can be a hundred times greater than in a city riding.

The 1985 redistribution carved out three rural ridings from the electoral map; three only. The member for Grey at the time, who was Mr McKessock, said this would mean less of a voice for agriculture and tourism. His words indeed were true.

My colleague's resolution today accomplishes two things: It raises awareness of rural issues, and it calls upon the government to act upon the findings of Ontario's first

electoral commission, established in 1962. That commission decided to create a population base for urban ridings which was some 50% larger than for rural areas and an intermediate one for mixed rural-urban constituencies.

The member's resolution provides the government with an opportunity to pay more than just lipservice to concerns of rural Ontario. Most rural Ontarians feel detached from decision-making here at Queen's Park, and they feel that government policy is Toronto-driven, or at least big-city-driven.

Since 1985, rural Ontario, in my opinion, has been largely ignored by Liberal and NDP governments. Rural Ontario is being wiped off the map. Where we once celebrated our agricultural successes, today the list of agricultural failures grows longer and longer. Farmers in my riding of Simcoe West feel that the government is not listening to them and that the government here at Queen's Park is not there for them when they are most in need.

Last week, I accompanied three Collingwood-area apple growers in a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture. These proud farmers have felt first hand the wrath of Mother Nature. For the past three years, their apple crop has been wiped out by inclement weather. What makes the losses even tougher to deal with is that these apple farms are located in the Blue Mountain area, which has historically been regarded as fertile ground for apple growing.

I'm sure that Mr John DenBok of DenBok Farms of Collingwood feels that the needs of rural ridings are being ignored. John's \$3-million apple crop was virtually destroyed by Mother Nature. "I did everything by the book," John told the Agriculture minister last week at our meeting. Unfortunately, what the government doesn't realize is that its farm assistance programs are not helping farmers survive crisis periods. "Three crop losses in a row tends to wipe you out," said Bob Giffen in the same meeting with the minister. At that meeting last week, Bruce Holroyd of Collingwood said that if Ontario wants an apple industry, we're going to have to help.

While the minister felt some sympathy for my constituents, he was unable to provide any meaningful assistance. The minister kept returning to two of his government's programs which are designed to help farmers: the commodity loan program and crop insurance. The commodity loan program has not been extended to assist apple growers, and the minister told my constituents that if apple growers banded together they might be able to speed up the process of extending the commodity loan program to apple growers. In other words, the minister was saying that today the voice of a solitary farmer has been rapidly drowned out by special interests and big special interest groups.

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Farmers desperately need interest relief and stable interest rates and credit; it is essential if they are to budget properly, especially in light of the volatility of Mother Nature and the uncertainty of markets. In order to survive the lean times, which seem to be getting leaner and leaner, farmers must have accessibility to credit in order to plant and harvest their crops. Today, many farmers are being

squeezed by banks, and some are unable to obtain the operating dollars they need.

Crop insurance: The theory behind crop insurance is sound; however, the practice has been less than beneficial for many farmers. One of the problems with crop insurance is the lack of affordable spot coverage for apple growers, many of whom have to spread their risk around on different farms in order to ensure that they have some crop. Because what happens in my area of the province is that you'll have frost in one pocket and down the road you'll have a fairly good crop and the weather will have been fine. Farmers in my area tend to put orchards on different farms in different geographical locations. The problem with crop insurance is that if one of those farms has a good crop, you can't claim on the farms that have a bad crop, and that indeed is a problem the minister will have to address.

Crop insurance premiums for apples and specialty crops are so high that many growers simply cannot afford them, given the farmers' narrow profit margin; that's if they have a profit at all. Growers have become frustrated with a program which they have paid into yet has failed to pay off when they've experienced crop losses.

Collingwood-area apple growers have been made to pay a heavy price through a freak of nature that is no fault of their own. Government has some social responsibility outside of what is currently in place to assist farmers and their families. If we want a domestic food industry, we had better learn to appreciate our farmers and be more sensitive to their needs.

I think the NDP's failure to grasp rural issues is again demonstrated not only in the agricultural sector but by the Minister of the Environment. In a letter to her colleague Simcoe Centre MPP Paul Wessinger—in response to a letter sent to him, Mr Wessinger wrote to the minister, and also in response to a letter I sent to the minister regarding the construction of a replacement school in Nottawa, just south of Collingwood—the minister said, "Planning the location of the school to allow connection to a municipal sewage system would in many instances involve moving the school under five kilometres, which may add five minutes to some school bus routes." In her letter to me in March, the minister had said, "In many cases, planning can eliminate the need for rural institutions entirely."

I think these two quotes demonstrate the government's bias against rural living. It's an ignorance of rural life and it's naïveté concerning rural issues. The Minister of the Environment clearly told her colleague and myself that she will not support the development of new schools in rural areas because we don't have the services and infrastructure there. She has told us in Nottawa, south of Collingwood, to move the new public school to Collingwood. It speaks volumes about this government's and the cabinet's attitude towards rural Ontario.

The Sewell commission also speaks volumes. It tells us there'll be no more development in rural Ontario. The big-city attitude the NDP and cabinet have is that we're to be preserved as a picture on the wall for the people of Toronto to drive up to on weekends and appreciate, or to drive out

to eastern Ontario to Mr Noble Villeneuve's riding to appreciate.

We live in rural Ontario. We need development, we need schools, we need institutions, we need community living associations. Today there'll be a huge lobby here at Queen's Park to address the needs of community living associations. In rural Ontario, many, many developmentally handicapped individuals, their families, care givers, will not be able to enjoy a decent standard of living and quality of life if this government continues with its \$1-billion cut to social services. The cuts to triministry funding, the cuts to sheltered workshop funding are hitting particularly hard in Simcoe county, a rural part of Ontario.

I say shame on the NDP government, which spent all of its time in opposition and all of its time in successive campaign trails being holier than thou. They triumphed these issues. They promoted issues of human caring, issues of social conscience. We know from this government's actions and from Marion Boyd, the Minister of Community and Social Services, that now it doesn't appear to care.

I have to tell you that in connection with this resolution today, the large distances that we must travel in rural Ontario, the large areas that we must represent make it very difficult for our constituents and the residents of our small towns and villages to access the services here in Toronto. It's a tremendous cost, a tremendous distance, inconvenience and time. We need those in-home services that community living offers. We need the day programs it offers to give some dignity back to our people, to restore families to the family unit and to take pressure off families. We don't need the government cutting valued programs that have demonstrated their cost-benefit worthiness.

I call upon this government to support this resolution. It gives me the opportunity and others the opportunity to discuss rural issues. Community living is one. The size of ridings and the need for more rural representation in this Legislature are paramount. If one were to examine Hansards on a weekly basis, the amount of time given to rural Ontario is disgusting. That's the word I would use. It's frankly disgusting. If it weren't for some of us rural members in the PC caucus and some of the Liberal members, we wouldn't hear any of the concerns of rural Ontario in this Legislature. We need more representation, and this resolution calls upon the electoral boundary commission to take that into account and calls upon the government to take the needs and special needs of rural Ontario into account.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I would first like to congratulate the member for S-D-G & East Grenville for raising the issue of electoral fairness, but I'm going to approach this matter from a rather different perspective. I do agree it's an important issue that deserves more discussion than it usually gets.

The mover of the motion represents a rural riding. I represent a mixed urban-rural riding. At the last election, there were 63,000 registered voters in my riding, but only 44,000 in his. In fact, my riding was one of only 13 with over 60,000 voters. At the same time, there were 21 ridings

with under 40,000 voters. Nine of these were in northern Ontario. Surprisingly, 11 of them were in Metropolitan Toronto. These numbers suggest to me that the reasons for different numbers of voters in different ridings are more complex than the resolution indicates and that different remedies are needed.

The problem of riding size is mainly associated with the single-member constituencies that we use in North America and in Britain. A country like Israel, where 130 members are elected to represent the whole country in a single constituency, has no problem with riding sizes or boundaries. It may have other electoral problems but it doesn't have this one. Most other European countries use multimember regional constituencies combined with some method of proportional representation. This may have some problems with riding size, but disparities can be partially resolved by changing the number of members for a constituency.

Here in Ontario, our democratic traditions derive from the British parliamentary system. There, the principle of representation by population forms part of the program of radical reform which started with the great Reform Act of 1832. Before then, the basic principle was that members represented units of government: boroughs and shires rather than people. There were voter ratios of 60:1 between the largest and the smallest districts. Today, the principle of representation by population is widely accepted and the voter ratio disparity is much smaller. But it's still around 2:1 in Britain and in Ontario. Clearly, the principle has encountered lasting obstacles. Among them are different philosophies and principles as well as purely practical problems of implementation.

I won't attempt to discuss all the obstacles, but will confine myself more narrowly to the question of rural preference contained in the resolution. There is an old doctrine that country deserves better representation than town simply because it is the country. Until 1952, Norway's Constitution contained a guarantee that country districts, regardless of population, should have twice as many seats as the towns together. New Zealand had a similar rule until 1946. In the USA, farmers and small towns are systematically overrepresented, not by Constitution or law but by tradition.

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I still believe in the principle of representation by population and that is why I'm unable to support this resolution. I recognize that there are all sorts of obstacles to achieving this principle, but we should do all we can to move in its direction and not erect new obstacles like the ones embodied in this resolution. Rather, I think we should look at the existing disparities in the number of voters in different ridings and see what we can do to reduce them.

I can see why the practical problems of getting around the larger ridings in northern Ontario justify them having fewer voters than average, but it's hard to justify 11 Metro Toronto ridings with under 40,000 voters or three suburban Toronto ones with over 80,000. It happens because people move from the inner city to the suburbs and a redistribution is out of date before it's even implemented. At the same time, we need some stability in riding boundaries

and cannot change them every year. One possible solution would be to create multimember ridings in Toronto and accommodate moving populations by changing the number of members in a riding instead of changing boundaries. I put that idea forward for further thought and consideration.

To sum up, I again commend the mover for raising the issue, but I think he has the wrong solution to the wrong problem and I shall not be supporting the resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I am pleased to rise today in support of this resolution from my colleague Mr Villeneuve. I was here before the last redistribution took place and spoke in this Legislature on redistribution at that time. Many flaws happened in that legislation. I want to zero in on the riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay and the riding of Simcoe East and how those two ridings were changed. I also want to talk very briefly about the riding of Grey, the large riding Mr Murdoch represents, and how it has been increased.

Huntsville and Midland have very little in common in the Muskoka-Georgian Bay riding. It's one of the larger ridings in Ontario and the member has to drive through most of my riding to get to the other half of his. It totally doesn't make sense when these things are looked at. To get to one part of my riding I have to drive through the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay's riding. I don't have to, I can go around it, but it's shorter to drive through his riding to get to mine.

When we talk about redistribution—and this resolution deals mainly with the urban and/or rural—there is a difference. In urban Ontario you could represent 200,000 people as easily as you could represent 75,000 in rural Ontario. The criterion being used as population is wrong. I hope the commissioners, when they look at it, will realize the difference in rural Ontario.

My riding of Simcoe East is about 100 kilometres long and about 45 kilometres wide and I'm sure, Mr Speaker, your riding is much the same. When you go to the city of Peterborough—the member just finished speaking—she can represent that total city of a population of, I don't know, well over 100,000, I think—75,000. Anyhow, the area around it that she represents—the member and myself have a lot bigger job to look after our constituents than you do in urban Ontario.

I hope that when the commissioners deal with this very issue they take into consideration the changes that are needed, how we've got to maintain agriculture and how we've got to maintain those communities, that we be viable, that we can continue to supply the food we need in this province of Ontario.

I want to commend the member for S-D-G & East Grenville for bringing this resolution forward because it was a good opportunity to discuss for an hour in this House what's going to happen and some of what we think should happen when redistribution comes in place and looking at it in about 1995.

The urban-rural population is the key. In Toronto you can look after 200,000 population as easily as you can less

than 100,000 in rural Ontario, and I think those considerations need to be kept in mind by the commissioners when they're dealing with it. I hope the members here will support this resolution fully.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Norm Jamison (Norfolk): I'd also like to commend the honourable member for bringing forward this motion, although I tend to think the underlying concern is something basically different. Traditionally, rural ridings have been represented by basically the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Agriculture represents the views of the farm community. The farm community represents about 4% of the population here in Ontario.

The balance of rural Ontario consists of small towns such as in my riding: Selkirk, Tillsonburg, Port Dover. The issues a rural member deals with are vast and varied. They deal with services; they deal with different issues. In my case, I deal with issues like fishing, the fishing industry in Lake Erie, tobacco and different types of agriculture, yet there are base industries in the Tillsonburg area evolving around auto parts and so on—a basic steel plant that just developed over the last decade there.

I think it's important to recognize that in the sense of true democracy people and populations should be well considered in that context. But I have to say that Paul Johnson, a colleague of mine, brought forward a motion just a week ago based on governments giving rural Ontario a better ability to be heard through either a secretariat on rural affairs or a ministry on rural affairs. Rural Ontario is very important and the issues that evolve around rural Ontario are very important to this province and the future of this province.

Services are not dealt with directly by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture deals very specifically with farm-related issues. I believe rural communities don't have, and haven't traditionally had, the voice they should have here. As a rural member I spend much of my time travelling and much of my time on many different and varying issues, and I can tell you that I accept that as part of the job and function I perform as a member of the provincial Parliament here in Toronto.

It's difficult by virtue of numbers, by virtue of population, to have rural Ontario's voice heard in a proper and meaningful way sometimes in this place. But I consider that to be a challenge, and every rural member here should consider that also to be a challenge.

I can't help but take some exception to the references made to my own party on rural Ontario, one made certainly by the member for Mississauga West. I find it odd and I find it baffling that I see no rural members speaking on that from his own caucus this morning. I can tell you that rural Ontario is a very important and valuable part of the population and makeup of this province. I know the honourable member who brings this motion forward feels the same way.

I can tell you there are some concerns about redistribution and population, but I feel that overall this would be a beneficial motion to support. I thank the Speaker for your time.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for S-D-G & East Grenville has two minutes to wind up the debate.

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Mr Villeneuve: Mr Speaker, I want to thank you and all of my colleagues who've participated here this morning.

The member for Essex-Kent, I think, pretty well explained some of the problems that he has within his own riding; they're very similar to what many rural ridings, including yours truly's, face.

The member for Mississauga West saw the evolution from a quiet, serene country surrounding known as Peel county. I recall well being in Junior Farmers, and Peel county was very rural and had Junior Farmers members attending the annual conventions and conferences. I don't think Peel county exists very much as a rural area any more. He alluded to it and certainly lived through those growing pains.

The member for Simcoe West articulated some of the problems. The redistribution was done in such a strange way that we're criss-crossing one another's ridings to get to other parts of the ridings we represent, as in my own case. When I say a third of the distance from the Quebec border to Toronto, yes, you cross that riding that is covered by my colleague Mr Cleary, the member for Cornwall, but just north of him is the riding I represent, so effectively that distance is the same.

The member for Peterborough brought a different concept, and I think part of the argument that the member for Peterborough brought was that indeed we do have some city ridings that don't have that great a population. Again, representation by population always has to be first and foremost, but with special consideration, I believe, for those areas in rural Ontario.

The member for Simcoe East's problems are very much the same. The member for Norfolk, I think, brings the reality of the type of area he represents. Many of his towns, and he knows this, may not be agricultural per se but are very dependent on the agricultural economy.

I appreciate all participants here this morning. I look for support for this legislation, and if I was political in any way, I did not want to be, because this is above politics. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Mr Mammoliti moved private member's resolution number 33:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing:

(1) that the government of Ontario has supported increased tenant participation to create healthier communities, as evidenced in the reports entitled *Planning Together to Improve the Quality of Life in Public Housing Communities* and *Consultation Counts: Taking Action on a Housing Framework for Ontario*; and

(2) that options for increasing tenant participation should include management by resident-controlled cooperatives; and

(3) that conversions of public housing to cooperative housing carried out in the United States, Australia and

Great Britain have been successful in increasing tenant participation in the management of their community;

The Ministry of Housing and the Ontario Housing Corp should consider whether a pilot project should be carried out to assess the viability of resident-controlled cooperatives as an option for increasing tenant participation in public housing; and

(1) that the pilot project,

(i) ensure the extensive involvement of public housing tenants, board members of local housing authorities, employees of local authorities and members of the community, and

(ii) not jeopardize job security for employees of local housing authorities and include consultation with the employees' union representatives; and

(2) that the Ministry of Housing and the Ontario Housing Corp ask the federal government, as a major funding partner in public housing, to contribute to the pilot project.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mr Mammoliti has moved private member's resolution number 33. Pursuant to standing order 96(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes to make his presentation.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Mr Speaker, I wish I had an hour.

First of all, I'd like to welcome the residents who have had the time to come down here; they're sitting in the gallery up there. Approximately 100 of them have chosen to come down and support me on the resolution, and I want to thank them for coming down today. I also have a petition by the residents of Yorkview. There's well over 300 signatures on the petition in favour of the resolution.

As a little bit of history, 20 to 25 years ago, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the province chose to help those in need by implementing a public housing policy that currently exists to date. The intent 20 years ago was to use public housing as a stepping stone for those who are in need, for those who need assistance, but hopefully one day carrying out and finding a place of their own and owning a place of their own.

Twenty years has gone by and, in my opinion, things have changed. The social structure in certain communities has changed. The opinion of certain communities has changed in a lot of areas. We never expected some of the social problems that have come out of our decision 20 years ago. For example, 70% of the people who are in MTHA in my particular community are single moms. That's just one example of a particular social problem that we never expected 20 years ago.

Approximately 10,000 people living in MTHA are living in my community. The Jane and Finch community has welcomed residents in public housing with open arms over the last 20 years and has been very familiar with the goings-on in housing, both the positive and the negative, and I wish to speak of the negative as well as the positive.

The negative aspects to social housing we choose sometimes to forget about. We choose not to speak of it. It's almost like a silent lamb. I want to speak about that today, because the members in my community feel strongly about the problems that exist within our system;

not that there's a problem with the tenants, because the people of Yorkview and the people of Ontario believe that there's a problem with the system. There are two different things, and I need to speak to you about that.

Twenty years ago we decided to segregate, and this is segregation. Twenty years ago we decided as a government—not of course the NDP government, but the Conservatives—that the best way to deal with people on social assistance and people on welfare and perhaps even the colour of somebody's skin was to segregate: put them in a community separate, with a different identity, somewhere else.

My community is one of those communities. We decided to segregate. We said: "We're going to build thousands of units. We're going to put them in an area of the city and they can all live together in harmony." It hasn't worked. It's the complete opposite.

When you put 300 problems in one particular community or building, you get one major problem. When I talk about problems, I talk about family problems. I talk about the social problems that come out of that. I talk about the drug problem. It's not the tenants who are selling the drugs in my community; it's people coming into the community and the system allowing that to happen.

At Firgrove, at Jane and Finch, the architect of the building won an award 25 years ago for that structure. Today the police department is having a hard time patrolling the area because of the concept, because of that particular building. I can tell you that this exists throughout Ontario, not only in Yorkview.

Some \$240 million is budgeted to take care of MTHA alone, Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority in Toronto, and that is above and beyond the help that government gives the tenants for rent. Security: \$11.7 million budgeted for MTHA alone, \$250,000 or \$260,000 per project. The tenants could use a lot of that money to fix their toilets. The tenants could use a lot of that money to fix their taps. The tenants would like to be able to patrol and have the decision-making that they have longed for. They'd like to be able to patrol their communities and act as the security guards whom we're paying \$17 an hour to patrol: an \$11.7-million saving.

1110

Recreation: \$4.3 million. In my opinion, recreation is important. We have to make sure that our children are active and are keeping out of trouble. But we're spending a lot of money, \$4.3 million in Metro alone. I think the time has come for residents to make those decisions on their own. It's time for residents to decide whether they want their child to play basketball or whether they want a toilet fixed. Let them make the decision; they want to. They want to make that decision. It shouldn't be some bureaucrat who doesn't know anything about my community making those decisions. It should be the tenants and it should be the ratepayers around the community as well.

Co-ops have been growing since 1973. Co-ops are a concept in which tenants can take their projects and run them with the staff, among themselves with a board of directors, and you stop all the levels of management. In the Metro Toronto Housing Authority alone, I counted 17 layers,

one day, of management. If somebody wanted a toilet fixed, it would have to go through 17 desks before being filed. That's a waste of money. Let the tenants do it. The cooperative way is the better way.

That doesn't mean we're going to lay off. This misconception that the NDP government is going to lay off the workers who currently exist in the ministry: No, I would never put up with that. I think the workers should have a say in the changing. They should have a say in how the particular projects are run. Currently that doesn't exist, not even in the levels of management in the grass-roots areas at the Firgrove project, the one I'm recommending, by the way, to be that pilot project. Those managerial figures don't even have a say. They don't have a say in what goes on.

It's the people down here on Bloor Street who decide on what goes on in our community. Well, we're sick and tired of it. We don't want it and the tenants don't want it and the ratepayers don't want it. I have got over 100 people here today, both tenants and ratepayers, saying: "You're right. It's time for change. You're right. It's time for us to have a say in our community. You're right."

The problems that have come out of social housing, the problems that have come out of public housing affect the whole community, not just the particular site itself. The home owners who have decided to invest in that community are having to put up with the drug dealers, are having to put up with the prostitutes. That's not even the tenants' or the addicts' fault either, for that matter. It's our fault; it's the province's fault. We allowed it to happen over the last 20 years.

Let's open up our eyes. Let's do what's right. I encourage every member in this Legislature today to not only voice your opinions in your particular communities but to support my resolution: Convert the Firgrove/Grassways complex in the Jane and Finch community into a co-operative housing project.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I am sure the member can realize I will not be supporting this resolution. I am pleased that he has raised the issue of housing once again in the House, because it is a social problem that we have in this province. I think the real issue is that with all the problems of housing and the problems that surround housing, how are we going to solve them?

This government continues to expand the policy of construction of non-profit housing. Just recently, the Minister of Housing announced a large development of non-profit housing at the corner of Bay and Wellesley, and of course the subject of building non-profit housing, co-op housing on our parklands on Toronto Islands, so this seems to be the policy of this government.

To use Mr Rae's words when he was Leader of the Opposition, he plans to take over the housing industry—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member listened, and so should members on the other side.

Mr Tilson: He plans to take over the housing industry, and I think when you read this resolution, it's the continuation of the policy that was set forward by the Premier when he was in opposition, the whole expansion of the socialistic philosophy, which I submit is not the proper way to go about it.

Our party, the Progressive Conservative Party, has acknowledged, as have all parties—as has the Liberal Party, as has the NDP—that we have a problem in housing. The question is, how are we going to solve it?

Our position has continuously been that we would recommend the implementation of shelter subsidies and abolishing the continuation of government waste on non-profit co-op housing. Therefore, we simply cannot support this resolution.

I would recommend, if the member hasn't already read it, there's all kinds of literature out on this subject which talks about how this province can no longer afford the subject of getting into non-profit co-op housing, because we simply don't have the money for it. Our deficit keeps rising. Where are we going to get the money to do that and, once you construct it, then the continuation of it? We do need to spend money on subsidies, but the whole subject of continuation of the non-profit housing policy must stop. I'd recommend to this House, and particularly the member who has put forward this resolution, to read the various periodicals and articles that have come out on this subject.

One of them has been put out by the Ontario Urban Development Institute, specifically Morley Kells, who is in the July 1992 edition. It's topic is called "The Needy and the Greedy." I'm sure that topic will spark some annoyance from the member, because I understand his problems, I understand the social problems he talks about in his community and other communities around the province. We all do. We all need to deal with these problems. The question is, how are we going to solve it? Are we going to continue with the expansion of this philosophy, with the continuation of non-profit and co-op housing, or are we going to get into what we believe, the shelter subsidies? Obviously this government is not going to do that. They are continuing to do it, notwithstanding the fact that they can't afford to do it.

I look at the subject, particularly the third point, where it says "conversions of public housing to co-op housing carried out in the United States, Australia and Great Britain." It's in those very countries that have gone through this process, particularly in the United States, where we've seen it hasn't worked. It's created more social problems, it's created more problems. In an attempt to solve one set of problems, what they've done has not solved that problem but in fact multiplied all the various other social problems: the drug problems, the crime problems. The solutions that have been put forward in these other jurisdictions have not worked.

I'm going to read some excerpts from this paper. Some of you may have read it, but I think it sets forth some of the concerns I have in following along with the proposals being put forward in this resolution.

The whole subject of socialism is defined. I think this is one of the foundations of the NDP's policy: housing, in this specific format that not only the Minister of Housing has put forward and her predecessor, Mr Cooke, put forward, but this expands those policies. Socialism in this article is defined as: "A theory or system of social organization which aims at securing better distribution and more effective production of wealth by the vesting of the ownership and control of the means of production, capital, land etc in the community as a whole."

That probably is the summation of this resolution, when you read it and understand what the member is trying to do if the government were to follow the policy he is recommending in his resolution.

"State socialism," the article goes on to say, "is the above established and directed by the existing state or government."

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I know my friend is quite familiar with the story of Robin Hood. The article says:

"Robin Hood was the first legendary socialist. He robbed from the rich and gave to the poor (there was no middle class in the town of Nottingham or in Sherwood Forest).

"The present gang of merry men and merry maids comprising our provincial government are dedicated to the proposition that wealth should be redistributed. Regardless of the merits of that objective, they are attempting to achieve the redistribution of wealth by erosion of the middle class. If they are successful, we will end up like in the days of yore, with the rich and then all the others."

That's the issue. That gets in a direct response to the comments my friend has just made. He's described all these social problems, and already they're escalating. Why would he suggest the continuation, the expansion, of the non-profit housing system and the co-op system in this province? It isn't working, yet he continues to suggest that it be continued.

[Interruption]

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the member just to take his seat for a moment.

I am very happy that we have in our midst today a number of people who have come to hear the debate on this particular item, but in this House audience participation is not allowed, and I would ask you to please respect this House and not participate either by applauding or by speaking out during the debate.

The member for Dufferin-Peel, continue, please.

Mr Tilson: The article continues by stating:

"A number of declarations of policy by the NDP lately would indicate that non-profit housing is one of the major weapons in the quest to move resources around."

That's the intent of this resolution. That's the intent. I would submit that what it will do is create a very large poor class and a very small rich class, because who's going to pay for all this? The taxpayer is going to have to pay for all this.

The subsidies that are going into non-profit housing and non-profit co-op housing are unbelievable. I've spoken in this House and in committees many times on this

whole subject, and the province can't afford it. We don't have the money. We can't let our deficit keep rising and rising and rising. One of the reasons it is rising is because of this subject of non-profit housing and co-op housing. In the perfect world, wouldn't it be wonderful to build housing for everyone? The question is, what are we going to build it with? Where are we going to get the money to do it?

I suppose, if I were to follow my friend's suggestion, we have an endless pot of funds. Therefore, I suggest that the proposals he's putting forward are not the correct proposals. It is a proposal if you have an endless supply of funds, but we don't have it, particularly in this recession, particularly when businesses around this province are going out of business, they're going bankrupt, with the increasing unemployment.

How many people are being employed in the construction industry? A lot of people have lost their jobs because the construction industry has gone down the tubes. One of the reasons it's going down the tubes is because there are simply no new apartment buildings being constructed in this province. Yes, there is construction with respect to non-profit housing. Yes, there is construction with respect to co-op housing. And yes, I believe this government to date is moving in the direction of taking over the entire housing industry. I believe they intend that private enterprise will eventually no longer own the housing industry.

My friend has referred to cooperatives that have been carried on in the United States, and Mr Kells does make some reference to that. He talks about what's gone on in the city of Berkeley, and he quotes from a handbook entitled *The Cities' Wealth* written in 1976, which outlines the political programs developed by California community activists to use the city of Berkeley's resources to the benefit of their supporters.

We must remember that. The number of stories that have come out, more and more, as to who's using these cooperatives at the cost of the taxpayer is unbelievable. Their own Jack Layton is one of them. The present Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is another. The member for Halton North is another. Are these people poor? Do these people need to be subsidized under the cooperative system? I would think not.

So there is a housing problem, but the number of people who are taking advantage of the system and the number of people being paid off, I submit, is very difficult.

This article continues to quote the Berkeley situation. As to what's going on in Berkeley, it says, "Community ownership of housing and real estate is the ultimate goal of coalition housing programs." And that's the ultimate goal of my friend. He wants the community to own all housing and all real estate. That's what this resolution says. I say he's wrong, and he's dead wrong, and it's not what Ontario wants.

Continuing to read from this article, "That goal has been approached through tenant unions, rent control, a neighbourhood preservation ordinance, rehabilitation and code enforcement programs and cooperative ownership conversion." Isn't that what my friend wants? Isn't what has gone on in Berkeley what my friend wants? Well, it

hasn't worked in Berkeley. It hasn't worked in Berkeley because the problems that have developed as a result of this policy have been just terrible. I recommend that my friend read this article before he pursues this policy that he's suggesting with his government members, because it's not going to work.

This article continues by talking about the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario. It says that non-profit co-op housing was costing other taxpayers a huge amount of money and that there are other options to housing provision. It again gets into the recommendation of what our party has been suggesting, that is, shelter allowances.

My friend also asks the assistance of the federal government. The federal government has completely withdrawn from the housing subsidy field, and the province, of course, essentially bears the entire subsidy burden of new projects. You may be critical of the federal government for doing so, but how much can the province of Ontario afford? You can continue to take your shots at the federal government, but the fact is that you can't afford to expand this. Even the mayor of Toronto has advocated a program of rental assistance to reduce the affordability problems of tenants.

Under the kind of shelter allowance scheme favoured by most economists, money is given directly to the household, based on the difference between what it can afford and what it's actually paying. I believe that is the proper policy this government, or any provincial government, should follow, not what my friend is recommending, because I submit that the province of Ontario simply can't afford the proposals my friend is recommending.

The advantages of shelter allowances certainly extend beyond substantial cost savings. An article came out in the *Toronto Star* early in April which I'd like to refer to.

"Shelter allowances are more equitable because they give similar assistance to people with similar needs. They can be delivered faster"—I'll tell you, the lineups to get what my friend is talking about are unbelievable and inequitable—"and applied to a far broader selection of rental units, allowing people to remain in the housing of their choice."

My friend is saying, "You must live there," whereas the shelter allowance says, "You can live anywhere you want." But my friend says, "You must live in this building and that's that," and that's not the way to treat the people of Ontario.

"Non-profit housing, by contrast, provides benefits only to those people lucky enough to get a unit. It neglects those on waiting lists or those too discouraged to apply; is slow to respond to need because the housing must become vacant or be built; and requires a subsidized tenant to move to a specific project."

It is for those reasons that I intend to vote against this resolution.

[Interruption]

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. Before we begin this, if I could repeat myself, we cannot allow for participation from the audience in the gallery, so please do not participate. I ask you to respect the House and the work of this House by not doing that. Thank you.

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I would like to support my colleague Mr Mammoliti, the member for Yorkview, in his proposal to convert some units of public housing stock into cooperative public housing. My support for this resolution is based, in large part, on the success that I have witnessed first hand with the cooperative housing that exists in my own community in the city of Cambridge. As well, it is based on a firm belief that cooperative public housing is consistent with the priorities established by the Ministry of Housing which stress the importance of tenant participation and responsibility for the housing in which they live.

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There is a lot of talk about empowerment that surrounds co-op housing. I'm not sure that I really like the word empowerment, but I will vouch for the results. The co-op housing in Cambridge is generally exemplary of well-maintained buildings, units and grounds. They are clean and the grass is always cut. The members of the co-op spend a great deal of time in planning for and managing the building they have made their home. The residents plan for both the short-term and the long-term needs of their residences. Above all, the co-ops give visitors a sense of neighbourliness.

The coordinator of Highland Homes Co-op in Cambridge told me that the thing he most appreciates about co-ops is that people who have started to work together out of financial necessity seem to find that they come to appreciate working together as neighbours with shared interests. Is this not part of what we want to see occur in public housing in this province, that those who live in public housing have an enriched sense of neighbourhood?

The coordinator of New Hope Co-op Housing in Cambridge emphasized to me another way in which cooperative public housing can help accomplish the particular goals we have established for public housing in general. It is basically a good way to learn skills. Co-op membership includes a volunteer component that can include tasks from maintenance to management. In order to partake in these activities necessary for management of the co-op, members are trained and assisted until they have learned the skills and gained the experience to be independent managers. What the coordinator of New Hope told me is, "Residents realize benefits beyond housing."

On a personal note, I would like to say of my colleague George Mammoliti that I believe him to be a different kind of politician. He brings a fresh approach to issues. Where others see obstacles, George sees challenges to be overcome. Where others concentrate on the negative, George focuses on problem-solving.

I can tell you that as Solicitor General I was impressed with the thoroughness with which George headed the Advisory Committee on Drug Treatment, which toured this province and resulted in the Mammoliti report, a landmark document in the fight against addictions.

George has made a significant contribution to this Legislature. His plain-talking and straightforward approach to issues is exactly the approach that helps to keep us all focused not just on important issues but on solutions to these issues.

Mr Mammoliti should be praised for this resolution, which takes the principles laid out in the Ministry of Housing's policy of Planning Together and puts these principles into practice. When we replace tenancy with membership and balance responsibility with rewards flowing from it, I think we will see the changes that the honourable Minister of Housing, Mrs Gigantes, started occur at an unprecedented rate.

Once again, I would just like to reiterate my support of Mr Mammoliti's idea of running a pilot cooperative public housing project. The difference in the debate this morning was stark and real. On this side of the House I saw a member looking at an issue and presenting a solution. On the other side of the House I saw a member looking at the problem and saying, "Hey, we can't solve this." I want to go in the direction of Mr Mammoliti.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I am pleased to make a few comments on this proposal on behalf of the Liberal caucus. As the Liberal caucus Housing critic I have taken a particular interest in this area of Ontario Housing and also the co-op movement.

When I first saw this resolution earlier this week I thought it was a very interesting one, that perhaps this might be a creative approach to solving a few problems. The first is that it involves tenant participation and in fact encourages tenant participation. The second thing is that, unlike some members in this Legislature, I am very supportive of co-op housing. That's not to say that there aren't problems with it, that there isn't a way we can make the system work better, but I am very supportive of cooperative housing.

I thought this was actually quite a good idea, and yesterday, when the member for Yorkview came over to me and asked would I be supporting this, I said I hadn't finished doing my homework but my initial idea was that I thought it was a good idea. I saw a few problems. For instance, our Ontario Housing Corp stock is older stock. There are a lot of problems with maintenance and upkeep. The stock is deteriorating. Certainly, if you were going to convert it to co-op, one of the priorities at the same time would be to bring that housing stock up to grade. The member for Yorkview agreed with that. I said I wanted to talk to a few more people about it before I made my decision.

But this is where the surprise came in. Quite often when I'm dealing with co-ops I will phone the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario; I will phone CHAO and ask it for its opinion. I've dealt with them in the past and I've found they're very straightforward and very knowledgeable in the area. They said: "Actually, yes, but there's already a co-operative conversion working group that has developed this proposal. In fact, this group has existed for the past year." This particular working group was developed by the co-op sector. It wasn't a government initiative but a private, co-op initiative. Their specific mandate was to look at the conversion of Ontario Housing stock to co-op.

I thought, "This is very interesting," and said, "The proposal before us is that there be a pilot project." He said, "Oh well, yes, that's part of what the working group is doing as well." For the last few months they have been working with the Ministry of Housing to develop this demonstration project, this pilot project, and were getting very positive vibrations from both the Ontario Housing Corp and the Ministry of Housing.

Then I thought, "This is kind of strange." From this resolution I got the impression that this was a new idea, that it was an idea of the member for Yorkview. Nowhere does it mention in here that it was actually being driven by the co-op sector, not the government. Nowhere does it say that this is already on the books and that it appears that an announcement by the Ministry of Housing would be imminent regarding this stock. It really bothered me. I had planned to vote for this resolution, but I don't think this is right and I don't think this is fair.

I wasn't here at the very beginning of the debate, because I had a meeting on another important issue for Metro Toronto, which is market value assessment, but I had asked both my colleague in the House and my executive assistant to take note of Mr Mammoliti's remarks: Did he give credit to the co-op sector for this idea? And the answer was no.

Quite frankly, this bothers me. It bothers me when it's set up that a member of the NDP puts in a private member's resolution, which he had to have cleared with the Ministry of Housing, because that's the way it works—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms Poole: That's the way it works.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms Poole: I wish the member for Downsview would please give the courtesy of letting other members speak their piece. This is very important and it's a matter of principle here.

Mr Mammoliti: But I can't stand up and talk.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms Poole: The ministry had to be aware of this going on because the ministry was involved in the project. This morning the co-op housing association sent me a copy of the project. These are various representatives from the co-op sector, one of whom is from CHAO. I looked through it and it's a good proposal.

But that this member wouldn't even mention this, to me it stinks to high heaven. That this member would bring forward a proposal which he knows the government is very likely to adopt in the near future so he could then take credit, saying, "See, I recommended this pilot project, and look, the government listened," to me this smacks of dishonesty.

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I would have had no problem if he had come here today and said, "This is an initiative of the co-op sector and I'm proud to support it." But going through the back door like this means he's going to take credit for something he

didn't do, and it doesn't surprise me on the one hand. It surprised me that the member for Yorkview would do this.

Maybe I'm totally wrong. Maybe he didn't talk to the co-op sector, so he didn't know they'd done all this work. Maybe I'm wronging him in saying this is a big setup. If that's the case, then he was set up. He was set up by a government that wants to give him credit for something this government didn't do.

This isn't the first time it's happened. Just a couple of weeks ago in the House a question was asked about the Premier's results over in Asia. Lo and behold appears a press release of a \$10-million job opportunity by a Japanese company in Ontario, and isn't it wonderful what the Premier's doing.

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): What's that got to do with co-op housing?

Ms Poole: What it has to do with co-op housing is that this government took credit for that, yet the very next day that Japanese company issued a statement disavowing itself, saying this program was set up two years ago and had nothing to do with this government. That's exactly what this government is doing.

Let me say, I don't like this type of approach. Just be upfront. If you're going to give credit where credit is due, then fine, but I'll tell you, you demean the whole process by the way this has come in through the back door. When I say it's not the first time, I say it's part of the continuing pattern, the whole John Piper business of manipulating things to take credit for things you didn't do.

A year ago in this very Legislature, the Premier stood up and had to defend himself because he printed in his own householder the fact that he had said 420,000 women were now going to get pay equity because his government had passed the legislation. It wasn't true then and it isn't true today. You're taking credit for something you haven't done and you still haven't done it.

I could give you example after example. I remember when we were talking about finances and the budget. The Treasurer said, "We have protected the poor; we have protected those who are least able to pay." People under \$53,000 in income wouldn't have to pay. Then it turned out—this is what was printed I think by the member for Dovercourt at the time. They took credit for protecting the poor and protecting everybody earning under \$53,000. When the facts came out, it was that everybody was paying this 5% increase and in fact was not protected. It's one more example of taking credit for something you didn't do.

What I would like to hear from Mr Mammoliti when he makes his remarks at the end is why he didn't mention the enormous contribution of the co-op sector. I have a copy of the plan, the proposal, here and I've looked through it. It's well-thought-out. A year's worth of work has gone into this. It talks about a number of the areas in which I had concern. They too were concerned about the preservation of the housing stock and the fact that it was very important to make sure that when this conversion process took place, the stock was upgraded. Quite frankly, when I look at their key goals and assumptions, it's

obvious a number of the concerns I had are being taken into account.

I'll tell you one thing: I want to vote for this proposal because I think it's a good one. I think it's creative, I think it is restoring our aging housing stock, I think it is encouraging tenant participation, but I really resent the way this government has gone through the back door to try to take the credit for it. Even if they'd said, "We're in a partnership with the co-op sector," even if they'd mentioned it, but no, this was an initiative from the member for Yorkview. No credit was being given anywhere, so that in a couple of months when this initiative is announced the member can take credit for something that he didn't do.

I'm not making comments on the sincerity of the member. I know he's got a lot of housing stock in his particular riding that is OHC, but I'm saying that is not the way to do it. You have to be up front with what you're doing. You have to give credit to those who have done the work, taken the initiative, shown the creativity and spent thousands and thousands of hours of work on this proposal.

I am not going to vote for this because it's a sham. It makes a mockery of a very good proposal—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): It's difficult. Nobody expected—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms Poole: Well, quite frankly, I intended to vote for this. At 4 o'clock yesterday I intended to vote for this proposal, until I found out that you were perpetuating it as your proposal, even the wording in it.

The Acting Speaker: We're now getting into dialogue across the chamber, which, as you know, is out of order. I'd ask you to address your remarks through the Chair. Interjections are completely out of order, as usual, and I'd ask the honourable member for Downsview to please stop. The honourable member for Eglinton has the floor.

Ms Poole: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and my apologies for not going through the Chair, but I am getting quite exercised by the attitude of certain of the members of the government.

I even looked at the wording and it says in item 3 "that conversions of public housing to cooperative housing carried out in the United States, Australia and Great Britain have been successful in increasing tenant participation in the management of their community." This is taken exactly from this report and yet there is no acknowledgement that this report even existed. They have a term for using somebody else's information and adopting it as your own and that's exactly what this is. Nothing less than it.

I think it is not to the credit of the member for Yorkview that he did this. I don't think it's to the credit of this government and the Ministry of Housing which had to have known—they're part of this—that it was going on. I find it totally unacceptable for this government to be taking credit for something that was initiated by the co-op sector. They are to be commended for what they did. This government is to be held in disgrace for what it is doing.

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): I'm certainly pleased to respond to my colleague the member for Yorkview's resolution before the House today regarding the

development of a demonstration process for public housing in Ontario. Unfortunately, it's very sad the approach that the Liberal critic has taken. Mr Mammoliti, as I'm sure people in this House will know, is a very straightforward member and what he's doing is bringing forward the direct concerns of his riding. It's unfortunate that she cannot be constructive.

The resolution here proposes that my ministry and the Ontario Housing Corp consider a pilot project to assess the viability of resident-controlled co-ops as an option for increasing tenant participation. We fully welcome the idea of tenant participation in management. That concept is at the heart of the government's approach to management of all social housing in this province.

As the member has pointed out in his resolution, we have clearly stated this in two recent documents: firstly, Consultation Counts, which deals with the future direction of co-op and non-profit housing in Ontario and, secondly, Planning Together, which addresses a new approach of tenant involvement and empowerment in Ontario Housing Corp. What the resolution proposes is a major move in the direction of resident participation and one deserving of full consideration.

It's important that the policy and practical implications of this proposal be weighed very carefully, and I would hope the opposition would do this with us. Many people are involved and these are people's homes that we are talking about. I'd like to point out here a very interesting thing I just noticed this morning, and that is the Conservative member who spoke earlier talked about shelter allowances. The word "shelter" to me is abhorrent. He calls people's homes shelters. These are homes, which is a very different concept. A shelter is something maybe you put cattle in. That's the kind of attitude that we see from the opposition.

Let's look at the implications of this resolution. A key consideration would be tenant response to the concept. Tenants' views on the level of direct involvement is most important. A major theme in the Planning Together initiative now under way is to ask tenants how they want to be involved in decision-making in their communities. Tenants have different points of view on this idea. There will be some who want conversion to co-op management. There will be others who would prefer to remain as they are as renters.

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Secondly, the province is not the sole funder or owner of all the public housing in Ontario. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp pays 50% of the costs of rent-geared-to-income housing, while all cooperatives have at least some market units. A significant number of units are jointly owned with the federal government, and the city of Toronto has ultimate ownership of several large housing developments. These funders will have to agree and be very much involved before changes can start.

Thirdly, as the resolution rightly anticipates, questions of job security for the current staff of the local housing authorities have to be addressed and, as well, the situation of the staff belonging to unions in a co-op form of management.

Fourthly, and very important: What are the implications of this conversion for the principle of broad income mix? We've always considered this very, very important in cooperative housing and non-profit housing. Conversion will indeed contribute to the principle, but public housing has been exclusively rent-geared-to-income tenants. Changing to a mix of income levels may have some implications for this supply of rent-geared-to-income housing. How can we and should we address these implications? These are very serious questions.

Fifthly, what are the views of the non-profit sector? They're very important, both the co-op and non-profit sector. What do they think? What about the public at large? As the opposition has said, "Yes, we will be very, very closely involved with the cooperative sector." The important involvement of the people of Ontario—because this is a large policy. We're talking here about substantial public assets owned by the province, built up over the last 40 years, thousands of homes, not shelters but people's homes. The point of view of the public has to be sought and taken into account.

Finally, there are the boards of the local housing authority, which have done great service to all of Ontario over many years. They will have to be involved. This government welcomes the concept of tenant decision-making. This government welcomes the empowerment of people, and it can be clearly seen from what the Ministry of Housing has done in the past two years. I'm extremely proud of that. Together, all of us with the Ontario Housing Corp must look very carefully at this proposal, a very careful examination, and give it the thought it deserves.

I thank the member my colleague for bringing this forward. I thank the guests for coming here this morning. We welcome this.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): It's a pleasure to be standing and speaking to this resolution however briefly. I like what it says, George. He's putting forward an idea I believe in. He's talking about empowerment of tenants, which makes sense to me. He's talking about responsibility of tenants that the co-op movement provides. It seems to me that's a good mix. Where I do have a problem is the Piperesque appearance of this whole situation.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): Piperesque? What's that?

Mr Brown: It's another manipulation of the system, another way of making something appear as something else, as something that looks like something it is not. For that I am disturbed, but I'm not surprised. It's not the particular member I'm concerned with; it's a government that has consistently for two years manipulated consultation processes, manipulated press releases, brought people into the Premier's office to spin things, and "spin" is not a word the public really understands. What it means is manipulate, manipulate a process.

I'm surprised that my good friend the member for Yorkview has been captured by a Premier's office that says: "This is what we have to do. We have to make things

appear as they are not." It does not give credit to the group that originated this particular proposal.

I could say I was surprised, and I am a little bit, that the Premier's office has captured even my good friend from Yorkview. But that's what's happened here, and I think all members of the House have to understand that even in Mr Piper's departure, those people are still in the Premier's office.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Mr Perruzza: Just very briefly, I can't help but try to contain some of my amusement associated with this.

First of all, I'd like to thank my colleague and friend the member for Yorkview for having the guts to bring up such a sensitive subject in this place this morning. I can understand why some of the opposition doesn't want to talk about this. I can understand why the Conservatives don't want to talk about it. During the 1970s, when they were building up Jane Street, when they were making these kinds of decisions, they knew what they were doing.

They knew very well what they were doing. They had all their high-priced executives, all their spin doctors and all the other people it takes to make these kinds of decisions. They knew exactly what they were doing, they knew exactly what they were dumping into that area, and I can understand why they would want to shy away from that today.

But they weren't the only ones who were doing it because, while they were making the decisions, the federal guys who were providing the money were the Liberals. They were in cahoots; they were together. They were just dumping problems along Jane Street and in the Finch area and they were in cahoots. They were together on it because, quite frankly, they didn't care and they have never listened to argument.

So it's no surprise to me today when I listened to some of my Liberal friends and the member for Eglinton said: "You know what? I'm not going to support this. I agree with the concept but I'm not to vote for it, and I'll tell you why I'm not going to vote for it." Then she went on to ramble on how "It's not our idea." Who cares whose idea it is? Who cares as long as it cleans up the problem? Who cares? It's not yours.

You had five years and you did nothing about it. So it's no surprise to me when, during the last election campaign, I canvassed in the area and people told me about their problems: about the drug dealers in the parking lots, about the sex in the parking lots and in the basement and in the corridors, how they were afraid to open their doors because they didn't want to walk out into their hallways for fear that they would be mugged, how the residents, the people who live in the area live in fear because, in order to feed the sex and drug trade, you need to rob and steal. You need to go into a house and take someone's TV and sell it and generate some money to go out and buy the drugs you need.

I can understand why, in five years, you didn't talk about it and you didn't want to do anything about it: because it's a sensitive area, it's a sensitive problem. In fact, one fellow whose door I knocked on said, "You know, we

live in this stuff and nobody ever talks about it." I can see that today.

Some of the Liberals in the areas have talked about it. They go around the community and they say one thing. They say, "Yes, this is a problem." They try to blame the NDP. We weren't in power before 1990. The problems didn't happen after 1990. The problems happened before.

They go around the community and say: "Yeah, we recognize it's a problem. Yeah, we need to do something about it. Yeah, we want help in doing something about it." But when it comes down to this place, when it comes to where the decisions are made, when the time comes to put your money where your mouth is, what do you do? You stand up in your place and you say: "God, Jeez, you know, it's not our idea. Because it's not our idea I'm not going to vote for it."

All you're saying is, "We Liberals aren't going to vote for it." You can go in the community and say that all you like. You can say, "Yeah, there's a problem. We want to clean it up," but when it comes down to the guts of it, to the meat of it, you vote against it. You vote against approval. Shame on you.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Yorkview has two minutes to respond.

Mr Mammoliti: Let me respond very quickly to the member for Dufferin-Peel, and the Conservatives for that matter. I'll get to the Liberals in a second.

The Conservatives' idea to solve the housing problems and the social problems that might exist within housing is to make the rich richer. Give the landlords more money. Why don't you take a trip up to my community? Why don't you take a trip and see how those private buildings are run? Why don't you take a trip and see how those hallways in those private accommodations are being dealt with? If you did, you'd probably shut your mouth. If you did, you'd probably regret everything you've said in the House today. Make the rich richer. I don't even want to talk about you for a second. I'll go over to the Liberals now, because the Liberals—first of all, the Conservatives' idea would cost this province \$2 billion.

You know what, Dianne? You have done me a world of good. She has shown the community where the Liberals stand. The Liberals say one thing and vote another way. The Liberals talk about a potential problem, but they don't want to resolve it. They're too worried about the motives. They're too worried about who's going to take credit. The community's going to benefit from this. The community will benefit from this, and you, right now, today, if you stand opposed to this, are saying no to Jane and Finch. You're saying no to the people in Yorkview. You are saying no to the problems that exist. The Liberals are saying no to the problems that exist in my community.

I am trying to rectify a problem. I am trying to recommend the Firgrove/Grassways complex to be the private project. I know it would work. You're just too afraid to admit it, Liberals.

The Acting Speaker: The time provided for private members' public business has expired.

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): We will deal with ballot item number 33 first.

Mr Villeneuve has moved private member's resolution 21. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

We will now move on to the second ballot item.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): Could we refer my bill to a committee of the Legislative Assembly?

The Acting Speaker: To the honourable member for S-D-G & East Grenville, I'm afraid that it is not a bill and therefore we cannot refer it to a committee.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): We will now deal with the second ballot item.

Mr Mammoliti has moved private member's resolution 33. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30 pm of the clock.

The House recessed at 1204.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ASSISTANCE TO THIRD WORLD

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): I hope members will share my view that sound projects of Third World assistance are not only acts of altruism. Of course, if they are well conceived they benefit the receiving country directly, but by contributing to fiscal soundness and a better standard of life for all peoples of the world we build healthier and safer international communities and a more vibrant world economy. That, of course, benefits Canadians as well, as present and future trading partners of Third World developing nations.

I am rising, therefore, to thank three Canadian pharmaceutical companies and one charitable organization for their generous donations to Third World assistance, and to applaud their generosity and foresight. The companies concerned are Shoppers Drug Mart of Willowdale, Pharma Plus of Mississauga and Big V Pharmacies of London, Ontario. The charitable organization wishes to remain anonymous.

To these Canadian pharmaceutical companies and this charitable supplier, for their humanitarian service and outstanding generosity, our very sincere appreciation.

PROVINCIAL PARK WARDENS

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, a number of park wardens, who have the same authority to lay charges as OPP officers, have alleged that their superiors at Presqu'île Provincial Park near Trenton are dropping some of those charges without informing them or giving them reasons.

The wardens also allege several incidents of intimidation and harassment by park management. These incidents seem to have been triggered by the wardens' complaints about management interference in enforcement issues. These incidents involve verbal abuse, the manipulation of overtime pay and counterthreats if union action is threatened.

The wardens say they brought all this to the attention of your colleague the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. Your colleague assured them that he had raised this matter with you, the Minister of Natural Resources.

Minister, these are serious allegations. These wardens have come forward because they believe their own safety and that of members of the public who visit Presqu'île Provincial Park each year may be endangered because of management interference, intimidation and harassment.

Again, the wardens involved were assured that you were on the case. Apparently, this is not correct.

Minister, the wardens are demanding that you examine this matter and they demand that you launch an OPP investigation into their allegations. I support the wardens in their demands for a resolution of this extremely serious

matter. Minister, could we please have a reply in writing to these allegations for these people?

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): Recently it's come to my attention that a group of self-interested land owners and developers under the name of the Niagara Escarpment Landowners Coalition have approached the regions of Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton and Peel to return control of the Niagara Escarpment lands to local municipalities and disband the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

They have also formally written to Mr Terrance Cook, the program director to the Canadian commission for UNESCO to request the temporary suspension of the biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment planning area.

A great deal of hard work conducted by the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo and a number of dedicated individuals in this province brought the Niagara Escarpment to the attention of UNESCO. The former Premier of this province, along with the secretary of UNESCO, in 1990 officially conferred the status of a world biosphere reserve on this precious resource of the province of Ontario.

This shameful attack by a group of self-interested developers and land owners is not only a national disgrace but a provincial embarrassment, and I call on all parties in this House who have supported the Niagara Escarpment and the biosphere designation in the past to speak out very strongly and condemn this foolish attempt to exploit Ontario's precious resources.

The land owners' coalition says that the Niagara Escarpment Commission is too tough. Let me remind members of this House that the Niagara Escarpment plan is driven by the needs of the environment, not the needs of developers.

I am calling for the continued support of all parties of this House to protect the Niagara Escarpment's biosphere designation and the authority of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Thank you.

NORTHERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): A \$900-million proposal to construct a state-of-the-art petrochemical complex in the community of Sudbury is in danger of being lost because of NDP government inaction. Over 4,000 person-years of employment during its two-year construction phase and 250 permanent jobs in the north would be created. The complex, put forward by Sunthetic Energy Inc, an Ontario company, would produce ethers to be used as fuel additives, thereby reducing harmful exhaust emissions on our roads. Export sales of this environment-enhancing product have been estimated at \$280 million annually in 1992 dollars.

Yet despite these tangible economic and environmental benefits, the proposal has received only a superficial response from the NDP government. The community of Sudbury has until November 30, at which time Sunthetic Energy will pick up and move to California, where there's

great interest in developing this most progressive project. However, the NDP government has given no indication that it will support this private project by permitting it to sell its excess electricity to consumers in the Sudbury area. A news release issued by the company last week states, "Unfortunately, there appears to be little movement on the part of the government towards finding a solution that would enable our proposal to go forward."

When is this government going to act on this issue? The citizens of Sudbury and northern Ontario are anxiously awaiting the response of the government before next Monday. They deserve to be dealt with fairly and openly and not pushed off until it is too late.

ONTARIO HYDRO RATES

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I would like to make this statement on behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which has designated this week as Ontario Hydro Rate Cut Week.

As the Minister of Energy should be well aware, businesses in Ontario are cutting costs and struggling to remain competitive to keep jobs and investment in Ontario. This has been a particularly difficult endeavour while Ontario Hydro is moving in the exact opposite direction. To quote a letter from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, "Ontario Hydro's rate increases are rapidly turning what was once a competitive strength for Ontario business into a disadvantage."

I would like the Minister of Energy to take a moment to consider some of the following facts: Proposed rate increases over the 1991-93 period total 31%, while inflation is projected at only 10%. Operating, maintenance and administrative expenses represent 25% of Hydro's costs, and they have increased 86% since 1987. While other businesses are cutting back in order to survive through tough times, Hydro has increased its staff by 22%, approximately 5,000 people, hired over the last five years.

The fact remains that Ontario Hydro is not adapting to the necessities of our economic situation.

RIDING OF LAMBTON

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I am pleased to stand today and inform the House of many accomplishments that have taken place in the riding of Lambton county.

First of all, I had the privilege of participating recently in the reopening of the Victoria Hall Playhouse in Petrolia. The playhouse was restored after a devastating fire and now is back in operation as a vital landmark and live theatre venue in Lambton county, and I invite all members to visit very soon.

I'm also very proud to have had the opportunity to open the new St Joseph's elementary separate school in Corunna on behalf of the Minister of Education and then later open the new Corunna Child Care Centre located at this school. The child care facility will not only be a place for much-needed child care spaces, but it will also be operated by Lambton College, where the college's early childhood education students will be provided with their first opportunity to care for school-age children in a lab setting.

This major project has been made possible by the cooperative efforts of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community and Social Services and is the first of its kind in Ontario.

Lambton county is also very proud of the new central library headquarters opened recently in the village of Wyoming, which will better serve the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. This is made possible with a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

In closing, I would also like to inform the House of the new Wyoming-Petrolia parish charter of the Knights of Columbus. It was exciting to attend their charter night and present a plaque on behalf of our Premier, Bob Rae.

I wish all the groups I mentioned the best of luck.

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DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): It is a sad commentary on this government when over 4,000 vulnerable persons and the dedicated workers associated with them have to gather in front of this Legislature to grab the government's attention. This form of consultation is confrontation, yet this is the only way they can gain any type of recognition from the NDP government.

The Ontario Association for Community Living has a combined membership of 15,000 people throughout the province. Its goal is to ensure that all people have the opportunity to live in a state of dignity and to share in all elements of living and participating in the community.

Today I joined thousands of people in front of this Legislature protesting the ongoing disregard that this government has for those most vulnerable in today's society. This government's proposed cutbacks will stop the meaningful work that people like Rick Staples do at sheltered workshops. Rick was in my office today, desperately seeking assistance in order that his contribution to the community can continue. If your funding cuts continue, he will be segregated from society.

How can this government, whose Premier promotes the social charter for Canadians, turn around and totally disregard those most vulnerable in our society? This government's unilateral cuts will jeopardize and demoralize these people. As many of the posters said today, "Consult, don't insult."

I am sure the member for York East, who joined us on the steps today, would agree: Bob, you must cut wasteful spending, not the funding for people most vulnerable in our society.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Today at noon outside this Legislative Assembly, there were many concerned parents, staff members and clients who are involved with the Ontario Association for Community Living. They are concerned that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has announced a \$5-million cut to the sheltered workshop system provincially. The minister has also announced that the sheltered workshops as we now know them will be phased out and that alternative programs will be introduced to replace them.

The minister should know that the clients I have spoken with, those people from London, are very concerned that

they will no longer have the choices that are available to them now.

The president of Community Living London, Mr Al Gleeson, advised parents, siblings and consumers in a very crowded emergency meeting this week that they should advise their elected members of their concerns. They made sure that we knew that integration and supported employment programs were useful and necessary and that they supported them, but they wanted to warn us that each job in the community requires two persons to assist each challenged person. This is a very expensive program.

In these times, when it's so difficult to place so many of our special citizens, will we indeed find those placements that are so necessary? If we're going to phase out any part of that program, we must have another program in place before we do any phase-out. These are important citizens. We should be supporting a very good program as it exists today.

ELIZABETH SCHRODER

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): I'd like the members of the Legislature to join me in paying tribute to the late Elizabeth Schroder of Guelph.

Between 400 and 500 people attended a memorial service last week to remember a rich and a fulfilled life. She was the wife of Jim Schroder, former Liberal MP for Guelph from 1980 to 1984, and the mother of four children. She was involved in Guelph's community life since moving there in 1951.

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship presented her with a 10-year volunteer award for her work as president of the Guelph Arts Council. She worked hard to make the dream of the Guelph Civic Centre a reality.

She was the president of the Guelph chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women. One of the federation's interest groups was a civic affairs committee to encourage women to become involved in city hall and run for office. Elizabeth Schroder was on that committee 15 years ago when Guelph elected councillors Marg McKinnon and Anne Godfrey, the second and third women councillors in Guelph's history.

Elizabeth Schroder was a compassionate person who canvassed for the cancer society, delivered books to the sick and the elderly at home, taught Sunday school and served as treasurer at Chalmers United Church. She also led a Brownie pack and worked with the home and school association. She was involved with the Third Age Learning Group, which offered educational programs for people of age 55 and older.

She took an active interest in her husband's political career, attending public events on his behalf and sometimes cooperating with his staff to help constituents.

She helped bring the first tennis courts to Guelph's Exhibition Park, so there was play as well as work in her life.

As her husband, Jim, remarked, "Liz really did everything she could to make this a better place to live."

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

LONG-TERM CARE

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I am pleased to advise the House that today I will be introducing amendments to several pieces of legislation as the first step in the restructuring of Ontario's long-term care system—a new integrated long-term care health and social services system for seniors, their care givers, adults with physical disabilities and those who need health care services at home.

My colleagues the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Citizenship and I are confident that this framework is a product of one of the most comprehensive and democratic consultations ever undertaken by government. We held some 3,000 meetings across Ontario involving more than 75,000 people.

With a number of innovative features, it will make possible a more flexible approach to the delivery of services in the home, thus responding to the strongly articulated needs and preferences of users and care givers during the consultation. It will enable improvements to the training of facility and community-based workers and to the development of supportive housing projects.

Early in the spring we will announce the details of the implementation framework. In the meantime we will release a report in January on the consultation and the new policy directions. We will ask district health councils to immediately begin restructuring their long-term care planning capacities to ensure the inclusion of representatives of municipalities, social service planning and delivery service sectors and, of course, consumers. In addition, we will ask them to facilitate long-term care implementation planning discussions in their communities based on the January policy directions document.

Our reform also seeks to improve the quality of care for residents of nursing homes and charitable and municipal homes for the aged, because facilities are part of the continuum of care. To do this, we need to amend several pieces of legislation.

The new bill I'm bringing forward today, the Long-Term Care Statute Law Amendment Act, affects seven existing statutes. Changing these statutes is necessary to achieve five major policy goals.

Our first goal is to establish a fairer funding scheme that is based on the level of care required by residents and guarantees non-profit delivery of nursing care and programming components funded by the province. In this respect, I'd like to pay tribute to previous ministers of Health in the previous government who worked on this issue.

Our second goal is to improve accountability to residents, to their families, to workers, as well as to government, in terms of financial management, quality assurance and service provisions.

Our third goal is to establish a consistent resident payment policy as described in our October 1991 Redirection document. Currently, some residents are asked to pay for their nursing and personal care, and their assets and income are used to calculate the fees that they pay.

Under the new policy, residents will be asked to contribute to their accommodation costs only—that is, for room and board. Let me emphasize that residents will no longer pay for nursing and personal care. As well, assets will no longer be considered in the calculation of residents' fees.

No one will be refused care because of an inability to pay. Those who have a limited ability to pay, based on an income test, will pay at an affordable reduced rate.

Our fourth goal is to allow eligibility and admission decisions to be made by a placement coordinator who will simplify and streamline access to long-term care facilities.

Finally, our fifth goal is to make direct payments to adults with disabilities so that they can purchase and manage their own services. This goal addresses the central importance to consumers of maximizing dignity, independence and control over their own lives.

We remain committed to the \$647-million investment in long-term care. It is with great enthusiasm and hope that I ask the honourable members for their support to these amendments, which will help lay the foundation for and take the first steps towards a new long-term care health and social service system in the province of Ontario.

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TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): In the 1992 budget the government made a commitment to three priorities: helping workers and employers prepare for the economy of the future, preserving public services that Ontario values and keeping the deficit in check.

When we published the budget we knew the road to economic recovery would be a difficult one, but the problems we face have become more serious than we knew last spring. The economy is recovering more slowly than we and others had forecast and our revenues, as I indicate in the Fiscal Outlook I have tabled today, have also been slow to recover.

We are not alone. Across the industrialized world, economic activity has been slowed, unemployment has been high and growth is sluggish. Government revenues are weak and the need to help those who have been hurt by the recession has increased.

However, in the face of these difficulties, we are on target for operating expenditures in 1993-94. But in the absence of further policy changes, we now estimate our total revenues next year will be \$4.2 billion less than planned in last year's budget.

Between now and next spring's budget, we must make additional revenue and expenditure decisions to close this revenue gap.

We have already demonstrated that this can be done. This past year we made significant headway restructuring programs and containing costs. Growth in spending fell to 4.8% after a decade of increases averaging over 10%. If public debt interest were excluded, growth in operating spending would be up only 2.8% this year.

Our management of health care costs is a good example of the progress we have made. After 10 years of in-

creases averaging over 11%, the increase for health care spending this year is up only 1.6%. This reduction in the growth of the health budget was achieved without major disruptions in service and with minimal job loss. That is a tribute to the Minister of Health and to the other stakeholders in the health sector field.

The program review and evaluation process we initiated last year was another way we managed to reduce the growth in spending so substantially. This process has led to greater efficiency and reduced costs in a number of programs including legal aid and the Ontario drug benefit plan.

Government has cut its own operating costs, excluding salaries, by \$300 million this year. And we have shown leadership by freezing the salaries of cabinet ministers, MPPs and senior managers. Our confidence in collective bargaining has been vindicated: Wage increases for employees have been moderate.

Our long-term plan is the right one. We are going to continue to invest in the economy, preserve services and keep the deficit in check. But in all facets of public service delivery, we must adjust to a difficult fiscal reality. This is not business as usual.

The government is committed to social programs and recognizes that during hard times they are needed more than ever. But we must reduce their costs. It is an ongoing process with long-term benefits.

On that basis, we have made certain decisions around payments to our major transfer partners.

Our major transfer partners—hospitals, schools, municipalities, colleges and universities—account for approximately 30% of our budget. Last year we worked with our partners to help them adjust to a 1% increase in funding—a big shift after years of increases averaging over 8% a year. We also gave agencies access to additional resources through the transition assistance fund to help them restructure.

Agencies were very successful in their restructuring efforts this past year. In spite of the historically low increase, jobs and services were maintained.

We want to help our partners build on these achievements. Therefore, we are acknowledging our commitment to our major transfer partners this coming year by providing them with a 2% increase in their funding.

This increase will be a one-time-only payment for 1993-94. It will not go into base funding. Last January we also announced a 2% increase for 1994-95. However, given the current fiscal reality, we cannot provide our partners with this increase.

We are capping their base funding for the next two years at the current year's level. This will continue to reduce the spending trend lines in these sectors, in line with our overall strategy for managing government spending.

In allocating these additional resources this year, we feel that our partners have a reciprocal obligation to the province and to its taxpayers to build on the progress of the past year. Therefore, the additional funding is tied to each sector's plans to reduce costs, maintain priority services and minimize job losses.

We recognize this presents a significant challenge to our partners. Ministers will be working closely with their respective sectors to assist them in developing restructuring plans to meet our mutual goals and objectives.

We have made other decisions.

My colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities will announce the tuition fee increase for the 1993-94 academic year presently. He will also discuss changes to the Ontario student assistance program which will achieve both long-term cost savings and ensure accessibility to post-secondary education.

We have also made difficult decisions to control spending in other areas. The Chair of Management Board will be discussing the decisions we have reached with respect to compensation, pensions and pay equity in a few minutes.

I want to emphasize that this government is firmly committed to implementing rights-based pay equity. Our overall funding for pay equity, when fully implemented, will not change. The only change is that the funding will be spent over a longer period.

My colleague the Minister of Labour will provide details of the amendments to the Pay Equity Act that will expand coverage of the act to 420,000 more working women, many of whom are in the broader public sector.

These decisions to control spending—decisions on major transfers, the Ontario student assistance program, compensation and pay equity—are only the government's first steps to deal with the situation presented in the Fiscal Outlook. None the less, for the coming year these measures will represent savings of \$600 million. And for the 1994-95 fiscal year, savings from these measures are estimated at \$1.2 billion. They are but one component of this government's overall approach to fiscal planning for the 1993 budget. A committee composed of deputy ministers and staff from across the government has ongoing responsibility to provide treasury board with a wide range of expenditure restraint options for its consideration.

In addition, we have also set in place a multi-year expenditure reduction program to reduce expenditures in all ministries over the next three years. This means that across government, ministries will be reforming programs while maintaining priority service.

Through these various decisions—major transfers, OSAP, compensation, pay equity and pensions—we are lowering the trend line in spending. However, I want to underline that this government is committed to expenditures on training, labour adjustment and infrastructure—totalling about \$4.5 billion this year—to support job creation and economic renewal. Through reform and restructuring, we are preserving the services that Ontario values. And in the coming months, we will continue to develop our plans for the 1993-94 fiscal year.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Treasurer take his seat, please. Stop the clock.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): You don't stop the clock during questions.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): You don't stop the clock in question period. When was the last time that happened?

The Speaker: There will be an opportunity for replies. I would ask the honourable members just to allow the Treasurer to complete his statement, and then there will be an opportunity for the responses from the other side. Start the clock.

Hon Mr Laughren: These are our budget priorities. We have made a significant start. We look forward to the input and informed debate of the people of this province as we move into our pre-budget discussions on how best to meet these challenges.

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPENSATION

Hon David S. Cooke (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet): We have just heard the Treasurer outline the fiscal realities which face this province and this government. I would like to announce to the House today that we are responding responsibly to this reality by extending a series of cost-saving measures and by introducing some new ones.

During the past year, the government took several measures to bring public sector wages and benefits in line with fiscal realities. We have decided to continue these measures for the following year. They are as follows:

For the 1993-94 fiscal year, salaries for the Premier, cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants will continue to be frozen;

I will propose to the opposition parties a continuation of the 1991-92 salary freeze for all MPPs through the 1993-94 fiscal year;

For 1993, pay for deputy ministers and about 4,300 OPS senior managers will continue to be frozen at 1991 levels;

The freeze on ministers' allocations for political staff will continue next year; and

The pay for all senior people appointed to government agencies, boards and commissions will be frozen at 1991-92 levels next year, as they were frozen in 1992.

I will also be writing to heads of organizations in the broader public sector to ask them to voluntarily freeze their salaries, as well as the salaries of their executives and senior managers. The government will also seek a wage freeze when bargaining with the public service professional associations.

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Pension plan costs have climbed steeply in recent years and now make up about 3% of the provincial budget. Other public sector employers also face significant pension costs. We need to look at ways of making public sector pension plans more affordable for the government and taxpayers.

To help achieve this, the government is placing a moratorium during this difficult year on all public service pension plan benefit improvements. As well, we do not intend to support enhancements to those broader public sector plans over which the government has a direct say. Proposed changes that will result in restructuring, however, will still be considered.

This moratorium will not change current benefit provisions, nor will it affect pensioners' cheques or how they are indexed. The moratorium only applies to new benefit entitlements. I urge public sector plans that do not require government consent to voluntarily adopt similar measures.

The government has also decided to delay the implementation of new pay equity measures by one year and to spread out the public sector costs over an extended period. This will make additional pay equity measures more affordable. But let me be clear, overall funding for this initiative, when fully implemented, will not change. We remain firmly committed to rights-based pay equity.

This government has been working hard to bring collective bargaining settlements patterns in line. I would remind the House that the innovative and ground-breaking agreement we reached last year with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union set a new, more harmonious tone between labour and management.

Before 1992 public sector wage settlements averaged 5%. Settlements during 1992 have dropped to the 3% range and increases that take effect during 1992 are averaging 2%. Those results were reached at the bargaining table, proving that collective bargaining can work to the benefit of everyone: employers, employees and the people of Ontario.

Finally, we are cutting operating costs as part of our multi-year expenditure reduction plan and we are also restructuring and streamlining to bring the Ontario public service to be more effective and efficient. We will provide responsible and sensitive management by working in co-operation with labour, employers and communities to ensure that all public services are efficient, effective and affordable.

PAY EQUITY

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Later today I will introduce legislation which upholds and extends pay equity rights to at least 420,000 more working women, a new bill to amend the Pay Equity Act of 1987. It replaces Bill 168 which received first reading in this House last December.

While the government's commitment to achieving pay equity remains firm, the financial constraints described by my colleagues today compel us to proceed more slowly towards that goal. Our original schedules for achieving pay equity have had to be extended. The extent of pay equity implementation that we had hoped to achieve by 1995 will now be reached by 1998, and the delay is attributable to economic circumstances.

Pay equity simply means making sure that women get paid the value of the work they do. More than 2,100,000 women work in Ontario and many of them continue to experience wage discrimination, especially in traditionally female occupations. This bill provides new tools for expanding pay equity: two additional comparison methods, known as proportional value and proxy comparisons.

Briefly, the new bill now explains the proxy comparison method in greater detail than Bill 168. Proxy is designed to be used only in the broader public sector and only after all other methods of achieving pay equity have been attempted.

It enables comparisons between female-predominant workplaces and other workplaces in the broader public sector. An additional 80,000 women stand to benefit from proxy comparisons.

The proxy comparison method is now scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 1994. The proportionate value amendment now is set to take effect on January 1, 1993. This postponement recognizes that retroactivity to January 1, 1992 is not realistic for workplaces facing tough economic times.

I am pleased to confirm, however, that the government is proceeding this fiscal year with a down payment program to benefit some of the lowest-paid women workers in the broader public sector. These payments will ensure that progress is made towards pay equity by these workers this year.

In recognition of the restricted financial circumstances facing broader public sector employers, this new bill allows three more years' time to achieve pay equity. All existing requirements to implement pay equity plans in the public sector by 1995 are being extended to 1998, in keeping with current constraints.

I would point out, for the information of private employers, that there continues to be no legislated completion date for achieving full pay equity in the private sector. The new bill will not change employers' current obligation to devote at least 1% of their previous year's payroll to pay equity adjustments.

Members will recall that Bill 168 received first reading along with a companion piece, Bill 169. The combined effect was to regulate the routes the public sector employees could take to achieve pay equity. This does not change. It is our expectation that when the new bill reaches second reading, Bill 169 will also proceed to second reading. As was the case in Bill 168, the new bill contains administrative amendments to improve the original act. For example, one provision protects pay equity plans when companies are sold, transferred or restructured.

In closing, let me reaffirm that this government is determined to fulfil its commitment to right the historic wrongs to which working women have been subjected. Our resolve has not weakened, but the economy has. The long struggle for pay equity will still be won but will take a few extra years to complete. Therefore, I urge the honourable members to grant speedy passage to this bill so that it can proceed to second reading and on to committee hearings in the winter months.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The minister's time has expired. Responses? Government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): There's one more government statement. I've talked to both the opposition House leaders and I believe there's an agreement that we can complete the statements and, in return, each opposition party will have 10 minutes to respond.

The Speaker Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND TUITION FEES

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): I want to tell the members about the changes we will be making to the Ontario student assistance program and to tuition levels for 1993-94.

OSAP aid has grown 66% over the last two years and last year the program helped 137,500 students, a major increase. Given the increasing demand for post-secondary education and the fiscal circumstances the Treasurer has outlined, we are faced with a major challenge. Surely some changes were needed.

In making our decisions, we weighed the financial pressures facing this government and considered three options: The first was helping fewer students; the second was reducing the amount of help to each student; the third was to help the maximum number of students by giving more loans and fewer grants, and that's the option we chose.

Because the program will now involve more loans than grants, its future cost will be much more manageable and this will give us the ability to help more students. It is important to note that by forgiving student debt above a fixed level we will be keeping the maximum student debt at current levels. Furthermore, students who are the most in need will continue to get bursaries that don't have to be paid back: \$11 million has been set aside for that purpose, doubling this year's allocation.

I also want to inform the House that tuition levels will rise in 1993-94. The standard tuition fee for colleges will go up by \$60 next year, from \$856 to \$916. The standard tuition fee for university arts and science programs will go up by \$132 from \$1,894 to \$2,026. These increases in tuition will help maintain enrolment levels and quality at the colleges and universities of Ontario.

The Treasurer earlier announced the transfer of payments to colleges and universities and that they would be capped at 1992-93 levels, which were \$2.8 billion. The Treasurer also indicated that the post-secondary system will have access to a one-time allocation equal to 2% of the transfer payment in 1993-94 and that, for this system, amounts to \$56 million.

These funds will be used by our colleges and universities to sustain and accelerate the restructuring process now under way in the post-secondary system. I will be meeting in mid-December with all the stakeholders to plan the most effective use of this one-time allocation.

This year we have taken some very large steps in finding ways to reshape our post-secondary education, and I remain confident that by working with our partners we will be able to adjust to meet the long-term challenges that face us all.

1410

TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

PAIEMENTS DE TRANSFERT
ET PRÉVISIONS FISCALES

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I rise to respond to the Treasurer's statement. I think there is only one word that one can use in responding to that statement, and it is "betrayal."

Bob Rae has betrayed the very promise that he made and that the Treasurer made last January to all of the so-called partners of this government. What they said was that the municipalities, the hospitals, the universities and the schools of this province could depend upon the commitment of that government to provide for a 2%, in real terms, increase this year.

What has the Treasurer told us today? He's said, "Well, maybe, sort of, we're going to give you 2%," but when you read the fine print, it isn't there because they're not even going to do that this year. He says in his statement, "You've got to show that you've been good boys and good girls, but we're not going to give you anything."

Treasurer, you and your Premier have betrayed the trust of the people of this province, and make no mistake about it, this is the strangest way to tell municipalities and school boards that they're going to have to raise taxes, that they're going to have to go to the property tax base in order to try to maintain the programs that they've been trying to maintain this year.

Ce que le trésorier et ce que le premier ministre, les deux, ont fait aujourd'hui avec cette déclaration, c'est de trahir absolument les promesses qu'ils ont faites et qu'ils ont mises devant le peuple ontarien. C'est sûr que dire un jour qu'on va donner 2 %, et l'autre rien, c'est simplement une trahison.

The people in this province are not going to forget that. Look at school boards and look at municipalities. School boards, because they were promised this increase, have already made commitments in terms of salaries. They've made commitments in terms of programs. Municipalities have done the same thing. Yet what this Treasurer has done and what Bob Rae has done is to say, very simply: "We are incompetent. We don't know what we're doing. Don't depend on any word we give. We cannot be trusted."

I end as I began: This statement today is a complete and utter betrayal.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND TUITION FEES

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): This is truly a sorry day for students in this province. The dismantling of the OSAP grant system is unbelievable; it's horrendous. Here we had a Premier who was standing out on the steps of the Legislature promising students that he would increase accessibility. He and his party promised, over many, many years, that he would move to a grants-only system, not a loans-only system. What do we see today? The exact opposite. This is truly, as my colleague said, a betrayal of the students and of the people who put their trust in your government.

Minister, will you today table the impact of your measures on those groups that you pretend to represent above all: on women, on visible minorities, on the disabled? What will it mean for their possibilities to enter our colleges, to enter our universities? You have promised to support them. What you are doing today is hurting those who are most vulnerable. You are removing their ability to enter our universities. You are making it much more difficult.

Also, your announcement about a 2% transfer increase is really a sham because it's not built into the budget at all,

as the Treasurer has said. It's a one-time allocation and, I read in your statement, it's dedicated to specific NDP initiatives. So our university system is going down the drain, and it's all because of you.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I want to respond first to the Treasurer and say that we've now got from the Treasurer the rest of the story. This is what we're going to see from Bob Rae and Bob Rae's Ontario.

We now know what's going to happen over the full five years of the Premier's office. The economy is in the ditch and it's not moving out of the ditch. We see that the Treasurer says he's going to have to somehow or other find \$4 billion more next year. He signals more taxes. This whole document, as we get into it, is a signal to the people of Ontario that we're into a survival mode.

There's no doubt that this document says, "Survive till '95," no doubt about that at all. The economy is in the tank. The government doesn't know how to get it moving; there's no question of that. The people who counted on this government to provide the necessary funding can no longer count on it. There's no question that the people of Ontario should now think, "How can we survive till '95 and get rid of this government?"

I would say as we get further into this document, you can see all sorts of creative ideas the government will attempt to do next year, much as they and Bob Rae have done this year, to hide the real numbers. They're going to set up all sorts of capital corporations. They're nothing more than a credit card to charge taxpayers' money on and not show it on the government books.

We will be looking at this entire document, but I would say to the people of Ontario that we now know what five years of Bob Rae will bring, and that's despair, that is a recession and that is a reduction in the services to the people.

Lastly, the minister's statement on pensions: You already delayed \$600 million worth of pension funds to next year that you should have made this year. The Premier himself said that you'd already implemented this pay equity plan and you haven't done it. The Premier was wrong. He needs to send out to those constituents a correction, because he told them you'd already done it and you haven't done it.

LONG-TERM CARE

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): I'm responding to the non-announcement by the Minister of Health today, who has once again reiterated an announcement previously made on many occasions. We are all committed to long-term care reform, and the minister knows that. Those principles were established by the last government. Now we'd like to see some action.

We know that nursing homes and homes for the aged are to become long-term facilities in 1993. Patient classification is not new. It's been under way for many months. But you haven't produced the manuals on which the facilities can work and you haven't produced the identification

on how the patient classification tool will be modified for those patients or residents who need complex care provided by a multidisciplinary team.

We also don't hear where rehabilitation hospitals and chronic care facilities fit into the long-term care strategy. The chronic care role study is due now. How can the minister be making this statement today without any reference at all to chronic care?

The minister's also left out the answer to another key question. She is statutorily required, under the Nursing Homes Act, subsection 5(6), to announce in the Legislature annually the desired balance between non-profit and commercial nursing homes. She hasn't done that in this announcement. That is a very serious breach and one which we expect the minister to correct today.

She also has the nerve to reannounce the goal of individualized or direct funding for the disabled, when she hasn't even undertaken the pilot project.

There are far too many things left out. This is absolutely not good enough.

PAY EQUITY

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I would like to respond to the statement on pay equity by the Minister of Labour. Bob Rae and his government should be deeply ashamed of the actions, or should I say the lack of action, by this minister on this issue.

Last December you promised to bring in pay equity to 420,000 women. You knew you couldn't keep this promise. You knew you couldn't keep it, and then for one year you did nothing. You didn't call this legislation forward for debate, you didn't hold consultations, you didn't hold public hearings. Every time our House leader asked what was happening to pay equity, it suddenly fell off the table, and you did nothing. Let me tell you, this government's and this minister's and this Premier's credibility on protecting women is shot.

They now bring in this new bill. After announcing in November 1990 that they're going to bring in pay equity, after introducing legislation in December 1991 to bring in pay equity, two years later they've done nothing. They now promise new legislation. What was so dramatically changed from the old legislation that they needed new legislation? What dramatically changed that an amendment wouldn't cure? Believe me, when we look at this legislation, we're going to find that once again you have betrayed women. You will have not only changed the time lines; there's something else behind it.

I can tell you, if you think your reputation in protecting women has stood up, you are sadly mistaken. Women now know that the NDP will not protect them.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Guelph.

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TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Perhaps the most significant thing about today is that today is the 30th anniversary of the first showing of the TV program The

Beverly Hillbillies, and in that tradition the Treasurer has brought forward another statement about his budgetary policies.

We know that the Treasurer is expecting \$1.2 billion from the federal government. He is the only person in this province who expects to receive \$1.2 billion from the federal government. He expects to sell \$1.2 billion in assets of the provincial government. To date, we have not heard that he has sold one dollar's worth of assets. He told us last week that he was \$590 million out on his budgetary predictions for this year. That makes approximately \$3 billion he's out this year, \$4 billion he's out next year. We have a Treasurer whose budgetary system is coming unravelled.

We have a statement today that he is going to baseline the MUSH payments next year on the basis of this year. We have seen this year how often the Treasurer has jiggered the books. Again we see a new method of jiggering the books for next year. What he's going to do next year is say, "Your zero base was two years ago and therefore we are giving you 2% this year," when in fact he is giving them zero; or if in fact he gives them the same as his zero base next year, he will be giving them a 2% decrease.

We have a Treasurer who is completely mired in the process. Perhaps it's time that we have a new Treasurer or a new budget statement from this Treasurer which accurately reflects what in fact the fiscal matters of this province are.

LONG-TERM CARE

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I want to respond to the announcement by the Minister of Health. While in opposition, Bob Rae, in reference to the hardship caused by nursing home user fees, said to the Minister of Health:

"He knows perfectly well that as a result of the deliberate, mean-spirited, Dickensian decision of his government to increase the chronic care copayment, not to increase the quality of care in nursing homes but simply to reach into the pockets of old people and take that money and put it into the pocket of the government of Ontario...."

Today's announcement speaks to the hypocrisy of a socialist government paying for its long-term care proposals on the backs of Ontario's frail and elderly population by increasing nursing home user fees by \$150 million.

Minister, it is imperative during these tough economic times that you get your spending priorities in order. While you are creating undue hardship for the frail and elderly, your Minister of Municipal Affairs is giving away \$150 million in housing on the Toronto Islands to the socialist elite, and your government is driving the private sector out of day care at a cost of more than \$100 million—all of this based on socialist doctrine.

Minister, why does your socialist ideology need only apply to the elite and to the non-profit sector while the frail and elderly of this province slowly go broke?

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): It's hard to believe today's announcement on long-term care. We've waited two years for this government to make this announcement and this is what we get. We didn't need two years of additional consultation to come up with the notion

that private sector involvement in assisting with chronic care services in this province was not going to be encouraged nor recognized by an NDP government. There was not a big surprise, nor was there a need to consult on this matter.

But the fact of the matter is that access to chronic care beds and chronic care services has greatly diminished in the last two years. I remind this government that Canadian voters responded at the ballot box to Pierre Trudeau's lies about wage and price controls, and you're going to be held accountable for what you've now done in long-term care in this province and you're going to know about it in the next election.

I'd like to say this: Today we had here, for the first time in Ontario's history, the disabled community present, those members of Ontario Community Living, looking for the support this government promised. The facts are that this government made the conscious decision to lock them out from long-term care reform. What's not in this report is perhaps more important than what is in this report.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND TUITION FEES

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): The word is out. The tuition for students in our universities and colleges will go up some 7%, and at the same time the universities, depending on what we find out down the road about what this 2% transfer really means—we do know that the base is frozen for next year. Of course, there's no way we will understand what that really means, except that we've never seen a base frozen, in my view, for the universities in the past, so I would say this is a rather crafty way of making this announcement.

You should also know that one of the quotes in the Toronto Sun today gives us great concern as we're looking at accessibility, as we see the grants dropped. "The NDP will now take special approaches aimed at target groups to ensure that those students who most need financial help can get it." The universities are for all students and we should not be targeting anyone. We should be looking at need as we look at admission for students in our universities.

The Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, which came to this Legislative Assembly building last week to give us some good advice, stated, "Increasing loans under the current system is not going to enhance the government's stated commitment to access, because OSAP remains fundamentally flawed."

The standing committee on social development took a look at a new way of presenting OSAP through an income-contingent loan repayment program. This government had a chance to look at it with all the changes that should be made to the OSAP payments, without just singularly cutting out the grants. It will not improve accessibility.

We all know that for every dollar spent on universities \$3 goes back into the economy of this province and this country. We should be looking at providing support for these universities so they can show the leadership we need in these very tough financial times.

To the minister, I can only say that he closes by talking about partnerships. Partnerships are earned over a long period of time through careful consultation. In the next few weeks and months, I hope the partnership he talks

about will take into the process the New Directions process we used. We've given some good advice. I hope he will work with the students, the professors in the universities and the parents in establishing a loan system that will help during these tough times.

The fees were spoken to before. We were looking at at least a match, an increase by the government to the universities, and we didn't see it. It is particularly disappointing.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS AND FISCAL OUTLOOK

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): This is the kind of day I think the socialists couldn't believe would ever happen. This is a day when we hear about a \$4-billion shortfall for next year's budget. This is a day where you are \$2.5 billion short for this year's budget; a \$600-million revenue shortfall for this year's budget.

We hear about no more grants in the university system. It's all loans now. They've got their promise backwards: No more grants, all loans; tuition fee increases of 7%; hammering senior citizens in nursing homes by the hikes, and to top it all off, on pay equity we now have the Minister of Labour telling us about his new down payment plan. He sounds like he's an auctioneer for the Ronco Veg-O-Matic, the new down payment plan: "For 75,000 easy payments, you can have your own pay equity as well."

This government has not just broken its promises, it's assaulted them. It's absolutely shameful that they can stand before the public today and claim to be a government that's responsible and caring and honest.

They got us into this mess, because I remember the day when this Treasurer told us he was going to fight the recession, not the deficit. That was the mistake, the first and biggest mistake you made. We told him at that time: "You're making a huge error. The deficit is too large. You can't afford this kind of spending." You suggested that we on this side, particularly I, were hyperventilating. Well, Mr Treasurer, I've got a big brown bag for you and you should place it squarely over your head, because I think you're turning white.

1430

ORAL QUESTIONS

JOHN PIPER

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My first question today is to the Attorney General. I want to review very quickly the events of last weekend in connection with the resignation of the disgraced John Piper.

We know that on Friday morning, very shortly after the publication of the Toronto Sun article, Mr Piper resigned his high office in the Bob Rae administration and we know that very shortly thereafter, I believe early on Friday afternoon, the matter was referred to the department of the Attorney General, which department caused a police investigation to be undertaken. Two and a half days later, Mr Piper was allowed to return to the scene of his dirty tricks, namely, his office in this building, accompanied by the Premier's principal secretary.

My question to the Attorney General is this: Can the Attorney General tell this House with whom Ms Morrison, Mr Rae's principal secretary, spoke in the department of

the Attorney General, when she spoke with people in the department of the Ontario Attorney General, what advice she sought and what advice was given in respect of the Piper affair?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I can advise the House that Ms Morrison contacted the Deputy Attorney General. I'm not exactly aware of the time. I will check to be very sure of the exact time. She contacted the Deputy Attorney General and informed him that Mr Piper had asked if he might be permitted to remove some of his personal effects from his office, and she called the Deputy Attorney General specifically to ask for legal advice with respect to this matter.

I'm informed that the Deputy Attorney General then contacted one of the officials in the criminal law division to seek that advice. The advice which came back was that it would be permissible for Mr Piper, in the circumstances, to attend at his office and to remove his personal effects; that he should not, however, go into the office alone, that he should be accompanied by someone, in this case Ms Morrison; and that she should examine any of the documents or anything else to ensure that only documents and effects of a personal nature could be removed from the office, and I'm further informed that this is what occurred.

Mr Conway: Can the Attorney General indicate to this House whether any of the officials in the department of the Attorney General contacted anyone at the Ontario Provincial Police, which police department was seized of the investigation into the dirty tricks that Mr Piper was up to in the Premier's office? Can he indicate whether, over the course of this matter but particularly over the course of Friday, Saturday and Sunday last weekend, anyone in the department of the Attorney General contacted anyone in the police which was inquiring into this matter?

Hon Mr Hampton: I'm advised that officials in the criminal law division were in touch with officials of the Ontario Provincial Police on Friday to request that an investigation into the events of Thursday and Friday take place. I am not aware of any other communications between ministry officials and the Ontario Provincial Police during the weekend. I will check to see if such communication did in fact happen. I am not aware of any at this time.

Mr Conway: I appreciate the Attorney General's responses and I would ask him, on behalf of my colleagues at least, that no later than Monday he report to this Legislature on those matters to which he's already made reference as not knowing the full details. It is absolutely critical to me, and I believe to the discussion of this matter, to know when Ms Morrison contacted the department of the Attorney General, and I need to know when that contact was made. I am assuming it was made before the Sunday night visit of Ms Morrison and Mr Piper to Mr Piper's office, but I want that timing clarified.

I would like as well a commitment from the Attorney General to indicate to this House on Monday specifically who spoke to whom about what subject and when. I'd like to know, for example, when the Attorney General first spoke to the Deputy Attorney General about this matter

and what advice the Attorney General gave to Mr Thomson and what the nature of that advice was.

And finally—

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Are you conducting the police investigation yourself?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Yes, Sean the DA.

Mr Conway: Well, Mr Speaker, this is a very serious matter.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): Were the police informed before the boxes were taken?

Mr Conway: Were the police informed before the boxes were taken? We have been told "No" to date, and that's the official record of the government.

Does the Attorney General not think it strange that, since the police inquiry which his department had launched was going to be looking at the dirty tricks within the Premier's office, it was peculiar and apparently unacceptable that the one person who would accompany the dirty trickster back to the scene of his misconduct—

The Speaker: Will the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Conway: —was the Premier's principal adviser from the same office? Surely the Attorney General understands the inadvisability and the unacceptableness of Ms Morrison, the chief of staff from the office being investigated, being the one to come back with Mr Piper—

The Speaker: Will the member please conclude his question.

Mr Conway: —to supervise the removal of such papers and things that we have no log of?

Hon Mr Hampton: The member opposite has asked me to give him some undertakings in terms of ensuring when a phone call from Ms Morrison to the Deputy Attorney General may have taken place. I will do my best to get that information as soon as possible. As well, he asked that I fulfil another undertaking in terms of timing etc, and I will do my best to get that information as well.

I think it is important to emphasize that Ms Morrison contacted the Deputy Attorney General for the purpose of asking for legal advice as to what might be appropriate in this circumstance. The Deputy Attorney General in turn contacted officials in the ministry who have some expertise in this area to determine what was the appropriate advice. That information was conveyed back to Ms Morrison, and I understand that she acted on it.

The member opposite may choose to second-guess and third-guess what happened. I suggest to the member opposite that this is really a matter for the Ontario Provincial Police. They will pursue that matter if they think it is significant.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr Charles Beer (York North): My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, today in front of this Legislature there was something truly

quite extraordinary that took place. Some 4,000 people from across this province gathered together but they weren't just any 4,000 people, and I think all of us can understand the work that was involved in ensuring that they could all come together and come together to send to your government and to you a clear message.

That message relates to the work of all of the community living associations and all of those who deal with those who are developmentally handicapped, adults and children. That message relates to the incredible work that parents and volunteers do across this province to provide the needed services and programs that those people require. That message includes, if we recall the constitutional discussions and the government and the Premier's statement about social rights and having a charter, what meaning does all of that have?

The question, Minister, is: What commitment are you prepared to make, not only to this Legislature but to the people who are outside and to all the others across this province, that you will truly ensure that the programs and services that they require will be kept and that your scalpel will not go into those so-called sacred cows, who are truly human beings and individuals with dreams and who have a right to realize those dreams? Minister, will you protect those programs and services?

1440

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): The event today certainly gave us all, as citizens of Ontario, an opportunity to reflect on the great dedication of the parents who began the ACLs and who brought the consciousness to previous governments and to this government continue to bring the consciousness of the needs of the people with whom they work and who depend upon them for their assistance. Of course I am very deeply concerned about these vulnerable people, particularly given the drop in our revenues and the threat this poses to all of our programs.

We have been working consistently over the last year with all of those who represent developmentally handicapped people. The Premier and I met this morning with the association representatives to talk to them about their concerns, and we assured them that we share their concerns, that we particularly share their concerns about the need for us to work quickly to continue the deinstitutionalization process, move people into the community and free up the dollars that are now tied up in large institutions so that we can provide adequate community services. They have that commitment from us.

That is not to say that there aren't some changes that may need to be made in the programs, and we had made a commitment that we would work with the groups to ensure that those changes would be made so that no individuals would be disadvantaged as those changes occur.

Mr Beer: Again we have from this minister and from this government words—weasel words. What people want are actions, because it's by your actions that ye shall be known, and again, these are the words that were in the charter. You were going to protect all those programs.

So let's get specific. In their press release today they raised two programs specifically, the cuts you've done to the workshop program and the cuts you've done to the triministry program, in both cases critical to realizing the objective of allowing people to live individualized lives, to be able to determine their own futures.

Minister, with respect, for example, to the triministry program, you yourself in estimates admitted that you had not understood, you had not realized, you had not known the impact of those cuts in the province, and particularly in Simcoe county and York region.

Minister, can you make a commitment today to this Legislature, to the 4,000 who were in front of this Legislature, to those who are here watching, that you are going to restore the triministry funding in this province to ensure that the developmentally handicapped get the programs and services they require?

We don't need consultation.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Beer: We don't need more meetings with the Premier. We just need a yes from you. Will you give that today?

Hon Mrs Boyd: The member is quite right that when those cuts were made, we anticipated that the changes that were being made under the plan to move people from nursing homes would in fact make those programs unnecessary. If they had been used for the purpose they were originally intended for 10 years ago, that would have been true, but over the years they had come to support other programs, particularly case management and advocacy programs, and most particularly through Simcoe and York counties.

We have been working with the communities there to sort out which programs are which, what of those programs in fact are dealing with seniors in nursing homes, because that's another issue for us with our long-term care plans, and how to restore those programs under full funding, because the triministry program was always fiscal funding one year to the next. These advocacy and case management programs need to be offered in a way that gives some certainty to their clients that they will be there in the future. We are working with the agencies to do that. We will be working through estimates to restore the funds we need to ensure that those programs continue.

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): Madam Minister, the people of Ottawa-Carleton who work with the developmentally disabled are feeling very fragile, they're feeling insecure and they're certainly feeling full of fear and confusion. They're going to have their demonstration in Ottawa-Carleton next Thursday, and I would like a page to take over to you how they feel about the people they work with, the achievements of the developmentally delayed in Ottawa-Carleton. They have presented to me and now to you an album of those achievements.

Madam Minister, we've been told over and over again, and today at the rally of 4,000, that real and true partnership with families, staff and volunteers is non-existent. I ask you today, do 4,000 people have to come to Queen's

Park to feel that real partnership with real people on real issues in real situations is possible?

Can you give these people who are here today with all their hopes and dreams, as my colleague has said, the guarantee that from now on you will make them really a part of the consultation and all that goes into that? Is the process going to work for them? They have to have that guarantee, Madam Minister. Will you give it to them today?

Hon Mrs Boyd: I can certainly guarantee the member that we will continue our process of discussing with all the major groups that support the developmentally handicapped, including their own self-advocate groups like People First, the opportunity to sit at our planning table, which we call the MYP, or multi-year plan, round table, and that we are working with them and working very much in consultation with the associations for community living around the work that is being done to revamp the mix between sheltered workshop and supported employment. That is going forward.

I would say to the member that I thank her for the photo album. She will be well aware that I spent a good deal of time with the ACL community in Ottawa-Carleton in the early summer, that I too have heard the stories of those people, and I really appreciate the way they are feeling. It is always a fearful thing when we're looking at changes. There's no question about that.

I can assure the member that the changes that we make will be made with full consideration for the individuals. It is not our intention to do anything that would disempower people. Rather our purpose is to make them more empowered and self-sufficient in the work that we do.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is for the minister responsible for disability issues. I hope the minister will answer this. It's the ministry she's paid for, and I hope she will not palm off this question as she has in the past.

Today several thousand people gathered in front of this Legislature to demonstrate their anxiety and anger about the funding cutbacks to community living associations, which provide community-based support for developmentally disabled persons and their families.

Many of the families at the rally today are desperately trying to cope with insufficient community support. Several members of this House have told your government about the distress of families which have lost the special services at home for their children. There are also many families whose disabled children, upon turning 21, have been cut off from the education system and left without any support.

Madam Minister, will you promise this House and the people who demonstrated here today that your government will not abandon Ontario's most vulnerable citizens by cutting the funding to community living associations?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister Responsible for Disability Issues): As I start my answer and my response to the honourable member opposite, first of all I'd like to take this opportunity, as I think would all of our members on this side of the House, to congratulate the people who

did demonstrate today, because I think 20 years ago we would not have been able to see that empowerment process. I think they have a lot to be congratulated on with the hard work and the dedication that they do for disabled and challenged people.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): They didn't come down to get that kind of congratulations. They want an answer.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I also would like to say to you, if I could respond, please, that my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services has just responded to the member opposite in the official opposition that there was a meeting held today with the Premier and with herself to hear the concerns from the people who have those interests.

I think that is a very good signal to show that we want to work together, that we want to be part of the process to make sure that people with vulnerabilities, and especially people who are mentally challenged, as I would call it, would have that opportunity for further empowerment.

1450

As we move towards deinstitutionalization that has been started over the years, we have seen that there has been, unfortunately, a gap of services that has arisen, and we addressed this answer I think about a week ago when again the opposition member thought that I was not going to respond to the question.

I very clearly stated at that point that we have an inter-ministerial committee to look at making sure that both Education and Community and Social Services work towards having the programs that continue to work with people once they reach the age of 21 and onward.

I will respond further because I'm sure you have some further questions.

Mrs Marland: Madam Minister, if you think these people came down here to demonstrate to hear your congratulations, you're absolutely wrong. That's not the reason they were here today.

It's a tremendously rewarding experience to be able to integrate developmentally disabled persons into our communities, but it is also a challenge. Families cannot manage without support. Already this NDP government has cut \$5 million from sheltered workshops. They put only \$2 million back into supported employment programs.

My colleague the member for Simcoe West received a letter from the Minister of Community and Social Services which states, and I read the quote, "With respect to sheltered workshops, it is not our intention to close them." Yet the reforming sheltered workshops document says, and I quote again, "Funding for spaces in traditional segregated programs will be reduced and ultimately discontinued, resulting in the eventual phase-out of sheltered workshops."

What doubletalk is this? The government can't have its cake and eat it too. Which is it? Do you plan to eliminate sheltered workshops when you don't already have the alternatives in place?

Hon Ms Ziemba: First of all, I'd like to really make sure that the member opposite and people who are watching today understand that there has been \$2 million put in

to support employment programs and to make sure that employment programs are there. Sheltered workshops will not be phased out until there are other alternatives for supportive employment and for vocational and non-vocational alternatives. That's very important.

We must make sure that, as we move into the year 2000, we recognize that people who have been working in sheltered workshops unfortunately have been discriminated against in the past, because they have not received the equality and the equity that they need. Instead they've been given, unfortunately, small types of pittance of wages. We want to make sure that equality and equity are certainly put into place so that all our citizens of Ontario can have the opportunities we all share and want to share together, and in the rebuilding of our economic workplace.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I will follow up in the next question, I'm sure.

Mrs Marland: Madam Minister, where you lose all your integrity is that you don't choose to answer the question here, and the question here is very significant. These people have major concerns, and if you don't understand it, then you should be ashamed of yourself.

Today we learned what the transfer payments will be for the municipalities, universities, colleges, schools and hospitals, but we don't yet know what other sectors, like community living associations, will receive. Earlier this year, we were shocked when the community living associations and the children's aid societies received just one half of 1%, when the so-called MUSH sector received 1%. We have to wonder about the government's priorities.

Some of the most vulnerable people in Ontario desperately need the services of community living and children's aid. They do not deserve to get just half of what everyone else receives. Madam Minister, if you don't understand this, I think you should resign. We don't want words; we want answers.

When will you, as minister, make a commitment that next year community living associations will receive at least the same percentage increase as hospitals, municipalities and schools, and do you even care?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I'm not going to be drawn into the trap of now trying to go down to the level of using personal, vindictive remarks. I think we should be above that. I see a number of young people up there and I don't think we should respond.

Our government's very committed to making sure that every individual in this province is given full and equal treatment, and we will continue to make sure that happens. I have full confidence in the Minister of Community and Social Services to work with all of the organizations and all of the stakeholders to make sure that we have equality and equity in this province, that there is no gap in services and that we have not lost sight of the fact that when deinstitutionalization started, I am sorry to say, under the former previous government and the Conservatives, there were no safety nets in place and people were thrown out into the streets.

Today we are going to enter into committee of the whole to proceed with the advocacy legislation to make sure people can have that empowerment they so need.

JOHN PIPER

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): In the absence of the Premier I have a question to the Deputy Premier who, I might add, was in charge last Friday, so I presume he was totally in charge of the Mr Piper affair last Friday as well.

Mr Deputy Premier, your Premier has insisted in hiding behind an OPP investigation into the Piper matter, but you know very well that investigation will not probe the political ramifications of what the Premier's office has done, it will not determine how widespread Mr Piper's smear campaign against Judi Harris extended and it will not determine how many other times Mr Piper or others in the Premier's office may have attempted to quash other political opponents.

Deputy Premier, what we need to determine these facts is an all-party committee looking into what was going on in the Premier's office during Mr Piper's tenure. Is your government going to allow that or not?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier): The member for Parry Sound should understand, I think he does understand, there is a police investigation going on—

Mr Eves: Into criminal activity. That's the only thing they investigate.

Hon Mr Laughren: Into criminal activities. But he—

Mr Eves: They don't investigate morality.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Parry Sound.

Hon Mr Laughren: I'll attempt to provide an answer to the member for Parry Sound. The member should know, and I have a funny feeling he does but he feels he must ask the question anyway, that because there's a criminal investigation going on there should not be a parallel investigation going on. The courts have already ruled on that in that it's deemed to be not appropriate. I would think the member for Parry Sound would understand that.

Mr Eves: The Deputy Premier doesn't seem to understand there are people out there who are afraid that they too will become victims of the kind of political dirty tricks that were being played by the Premier's office. My caucus today is tabling a series of written questions to determine what safeguards are in place in the Premier's office, and indeed in all ministers' offices, to ensure that no one else like Judi Harris will have personal information used against him or her by your government.

Mr Deputy Premier, will you give me your assurance today that these questions we're tabling will be answered before the House adjourns on December 10?

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, the member for Parry Sound is quite appropriately using the written question format to elicit information from the government. I have no idea, not having seen the questions, how complex they are. I have no idea whether the questions that are going to be put forth by the member would be running in parallel or contradiction or interfering with the police investigation.

I'm sure the member for Parry Sound, being one of the more astute lawyers in the immediate area of Parry Sound, would allow us to at least have a look at the questions.

Mr Eves: The Deputy Premier I think is making somewhat light of a very serious issue. His government has had a very clear pattern of using personal information against political opponents for political gain. Dr Donahue knows that, Mary Hogan knows that, Judi Harris knows that and other survivors of Grandview know that as well. They're concerned, Mr Deputy Premier, whether you people over there are or not.

As I'm sure you're well aware, they're having a press conference in this building at 3:30 this afternoon to air their concerns. Will you not at the very least have the decency to attend that press conference and assure those victims of Grandview that the same thing will not happen to them that happened to Judi Harris?

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, no one on this side is making light of the situation. We've taken it very, very seriously. You've heard the Premier's comments and his regret at what happened. In terms of the Grandview situation, it's my understanding that the Minister of Community and Social Services met with the group from Grandview for well over an hour already today. So I hope the member for Parry Sound is not implying there's not great concern over what's happened on this side. We are very concerned about it.

Mr Eves: You've given me no assurance that it will not be used against them.

Hon Mr Laughren: Of course that's an assurance. The member for Parry Sound knows full well—

Mr Eves: It wasn't for Judi Harris; it wasn't for Dr Donahue.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Parry Sound.

Hon Mr Laughren: —that everyone on this side regrets very much what's happened. The member knows that.

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REPORT ON VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): My question is to the Attorney General. Attorney General, as we have just been told, almost as we're speaking the women from Grandview school are holding a press conference. They're here to talk about a total lack of support they've received from this government and about this government's abuse of their trust and the public trust through John Piper's efforts, using the full weight of the Premier's office to smear Judi Harris, a private citizen.

There is a 1976 report on the abuse that occurred at that school. The survivors have asked over and over for its release. The privacy commissioner has said, and has written, that the release will not jeopardize the police investigation. Time and time again in this Legislature, we've asked for the release of that report. That time has now passed.

Attorney General, on behalf of the Grandview survivors, I'm demanding—for requesting is now totally out of

date—that you release that report. Will you withdraw your request for judicial review and thus enable the report to be released today?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Mr Speaker, in a question that has so many assumptions, and so many assumptions that do not have a basis, I would appreciate it if you would allow me to respond to some of those assumptions as well as the question that came at the end.

First of all, I want to inform the member that it wasn't until this government became the government that the Grandview people even came forward. I want to remind you of that. There was a government here from 1985 to 1990, and nothing happened. I want to remind you of that.

I also want to remind you that in a long and complex situation like this, some of which happened over 20 years ago, it is very, very important that police have the opportunity to look at all the documents to see who might have known, to see who should have known, about the events at Grandview.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: It's very clear to me that the member opposite wants some sort of media show on this issue.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Our interest here, the interest of the Ontario Provincial Police and I believe the interest of people who want to see the Grandview issue dealt with sensitively and appropriately, is to ensure that the police have the opportunity to complete a full investigation. Once that investigation is completed, it will then be possible to release those documents. But to do so before might jeopardize an ongoing investigation. It might jeopardize whatever criminal charges might arise out of that investigation.

I ask the member: Please, please understand that the police are trying to do what is right, what is appropriate, and are very interested in bringing a difficult investigation to a successful close.

Mrs O'Neill: Mr Attorney General, you say there wasn't much happening before you came to government. Well, I'm very sorry that what's happening now is destructive. You say we want a media show; we had a media show last Friday, and it was the pits, if you're talking about supporting the survivors.

It's clear that the essence of John Piper's assault on Judi Harris was to destroy her as the focus of the police investigation into Will Ferguson's conduct and to undermine the crown's ability to prosecute that case, if need be. These women criticized the government. Government, acting through John Piper, treated these people, these victims, as it treats all who dare to criticize it. It used the power of the state to try to silence them, and in so doing, this government continues to victimize victims.

How can you expect Judi Harris and the other Grandview survivors to believe that they will ever get a fair assessment of their case in court, indeed in the broader

public eye? When John Piper was bound and determined to discredit Judi Harris—that was his sole motive—and to destroy her as a human being, how can they expect a fair hearing after that, Mr Attorney General? Will you please answer those survivors today?

Hon Mr Hampton: I believe it is clear to everyone that the conduct and the activities which are alleged to have occurred with respect to Mr Piper were not activities or conduct that was in any way authorized or known to the government.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: It is, as the Premier indicated, unfortunate that that incident occurred.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: So that the member will be sure, I want to inform her again that the Grandview victims' group met earlier today with the Minister of Community and Social Services, who is also the minister responsible for women's issues. I am informed that they had a very long and detailed meeting, lasting in excess of an hour and a half, where a full range of issues were discussed.

I do not believe that that represents insensitivity. I believe that the willingness of the Grandview victims to meet with the minister, the willingness of the minister to meet with them and to discuss their concerns, shows that on the part of the government this issue continues to be taken very seriously indeed.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Finally, I want to say to the member opposite that when the police have had an opportunity to complete their investigation, and should criminal charges arise from that investigation, I am very sure that the process having had the opportunity to take its full and proper course, the victims of Grandview will receive a fair and open and responsible hearing of whatever may arise out of the investigation.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, the provincial advisory group has recommended that you expand the Rouge River Valley park northward to protect lands beyond Steeles Avenue. This parcel of land includes two potential dump sites which were proposed last Friday by the Interim Waste Authority.

Minister, this is of the essence in this matter: Will you now make the commitment to expand the Rouge River Valley park northward and effectively veto the two proposed garbage dumps, one just below Highway 7 on the Markham-Pickering town line and the second in the Pickering area west of Whitevale, so that these two sites will not be included in the waste authority?

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): My colleague the Minister of the Environment is in Aylmer, Quebec, today for the meeting of the conference of

environment ministers across Canada. Of course, she has carriage of the Interim Waste Authority's work in identifying various potential waste sites in the greater Toronto region.

With regard to the park, the member should be aware that I have publicly stated in response to the advisory committee's report that was presented to me in August that the government will be responding with our position by the end of December, and we are committed to responding by the end of December. The two processes, the IWA's process and the consideration of the park north of Steeles, are separate processes and are not related to one another.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): It doesn't matter where the Minister of the Environment is, whether the minister is in Aylmer or even here: They're not talking. How in the Sam Hill could the Interim Waste Authority come along and propose sites that are right in the middle of the Rouge Valley system when—

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Sam Hill?

Mr Cousens: Sam Hill, West Hill. Here in the Metro Toronto area you've got yourself a problem, because the very ministry that's just next door to you is suggesting that there be waste disposal sites there, and you're in the position of having to protect the Rouge Valley system.

1510

We know that the sites that exist in Ontario, some 3,776 of them, every one of them has some degree of being hazardous to humans and hazardous to the environment. You as the Minister of Natural Resources have a chance to do something to protect the environment; hopefully, you have some care about people as well. But the people in the greater Toronto area have a sense of importance about doing something about this world treasure known as the Rouge Valley system.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place a question, please.

Mr Cousens: The fact is that we've tried to explain to the Minister of the Environment that landfill sites are toxic. They cause problems all over the place: to the underwater systems, to the air, to the neighbourhood, to the whole environment. So I ask you then, how can you justify the government's decision to include the Rouge Valley sites in the dump list, and will you commit to have M6 and T1 taken off the IWA short list? Would you do that much to protect the Rouge Valley system?

Hon Mr Wildman: Of course the member is far more familiar with this area than I am, but I wasn't aware of Sam Hill being part of this region; it is not in the Rouge Valley system, that I'm aware of.

I would say to the member that it's a little bit unfair of him to say we are not talking, when he came over to my desk two days ago and asked me about this and I explained it to him personally.

The fact is this. They have two independent processes. The IWA process is not a decision made; it is a proposal. It is not a proposal made by my colleague the Minister of the Environment; it is completely independent of that and independent of the study on the Rouge Valley.

The fact is that the government is committed to responding to the real desire to protect the Rouge Valley, an urban treasure, the most important urban park in North America. We are committed to doing that. We will respond by the end of the year.

I can assure the member that the two processes are completely independent of one another. I will not overrule the IWA. That is not part of my purview. It is not part of the purview of my colleague, for that matter, from the Ministry of the Environment.

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Wildman: The IWA is independent. It's making its decisions independently and we will make our decision to protect the Rouge Valley park independently of what they're doing.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr Paul Wessenger (Simcoe Centre): My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. As you know, General Tire in Barrie closed on September 27, 1991, affecting 130 salaried and 820 hourly workers. Local 536 of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America wrote to the Pension Commission of Ontario requesting a partial windup of the pension plan that was operated by the prior owner. Could the minister please advise me what is happening to the employees' pension money in that plan?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions): I thank the member for Simcoe Centre for his question. It's an important one to a lot of the workers who were involved in that closure. I know he's worked hard on the issue, because he's been in touch with me about it several times. I'd also like to compliment the workers' adjustment board at General Tire in Barrie. Their contribution in this situation has been extremely helpful in very difficult circumstances.

The member will be pleased to know that yesterday the superintendent of pensions in Ontario wrote to the company requesting that the company voluntarily partially wind up both the pension plans, the salaried plan and the union employees' plan. The company has until December 15 to respond to that request.

Mr Wessenger: Thank you, Mr Minister, for the answer. I'd also like to compliment the worker adjustment board for the workers in Barrie as well.

I have a further question. I'd like to know what happens if the company does not wish to voluntarily wind up that plan.

Hon Mr Charlton: That's a good point the member raises, because I did use the word "voluntary," and at this point it is a voluntary request.

Under section 69 of the Pension Benefits Act, if the company doesn't proceed, the pension commission has the authority to order a windup. We're hopeful at this stage, though, that the process can proceed quickly without having to go through that kind of difficult legal process and

that the windup will occur shortly. The member should know that the effective date of the windup will be September 27, the date the plant closed.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AND TUITION FEES

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Minister, this is truly a shameful day for the NDP. If ever there has been a complete flip-flop in party policy, your cutback of OSAP grants is it.

Here's what the NDP critic said in an open letter to the Minister of Colleges and Universities when the NDP was in opposition:

"One of the biggest problems with the existing system is that it places far too much emphasis on student loans and far too little emphasis on assistance through grants. As a result"—and I'm sure the Treasurer will remember—"many students emerge from post-secondary institutions with huge loan obligations or are deterred from ever entering those institutions because of the prospect of such liabilities. It is our party's long-term desire to replace the present student assistance program with one that is based on an all grants, not loans, system."

Minister, why this complete betrayal of your platform? Why are you trying to make up for the economic mismanagement of your government on the backs of students?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): It's quite clear to anybody who tries to manage anything that management has to be done on the basis of the realities one faces, and what we are facing at this point in time, as everybody knows in this province, is a very difficult fiscal situation, a very difficult economy, and everybody across the board will be touched by it. There is no way that it cannot happen.

What this government has stood for has been for access. It stands for access and it will stand for access. What we have done in the limits of affordability is to provide a program of student aid that makes \$130 million more available to students. It has not abandoned grants. What it has done is it has capped loan levels at a certain level so that the maximum debt will not increase for students, but there will be forgiveness for all loans that go beyond that, and that is a kind of deferred grant. There has been no elimination of grants. This is a very affordable but very targeted and very important access program for students, as it has been in the past and it will be in the future.

Mr Daigeler: There won't be any forgiveness in the next election.

I would ask you, what have you got against students? Just this summer you cut \$10 million out of the student assistance program. Last year you raised tuition fees to the highest level ever. Today you announce 7% tuition fee increases.

Minister, if you had any credibility left, you would step down because of your inability to protect the interests of students around the cabinet table. Minister—and I ask you yourself—how can you maintain your integrity as a social democrat when you and your government are doing everything to hurt the most vulnerable?

Hon Mr Allen: It's a strange charge that I have something against students when in spite of the fact that we are losing revenue hand over fist as a result of this economic situation, we are not only maintaining but probably putting more global money in the hands of the universities in the first instance.

In the second respect, this program I have put in place is a program which opens up more resources for more students in terms of loans and deferred grants on the basis of remitted loans than has been available in the past, \$800 million, the highest amount that will have ever been put at the disposal of students in this province's history. It will be there and it will help students.

The tuition fee increase is a request to students who are reasonably well off. The average student will be asked to pay less than a 1% increase in his global college costs and less than 2% on top of his current university costs in order to help the system maintain services. That's not unreasonable, and all that will be covered off for low-income students under OSAP.

1520

NORTHERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I have a question for the Deputy Premier. Mr Deputy Premier, I'm sure that you're more than aware, as one of three members from the Sudbury area in your caucus, of the Sunthetic Energy proposal that is very important to the future of Sudbury and northeastern Ontario. I'm also sure, Mr Deputy Premier, that you're more than aware of the town hall meeting which is taking place this Saturday, and I'm sure that all three of you will be in attendance.

The very simple, direct question I have for you, sir, in your capacity as not only a member for Nickel Belt but also the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of the province, is: Will you be giving those concerned people of Sudbury an assurance this Saturday that you, carrying the great weight that you do in your cabinet, will prevail upon your cabinet colleagues to appeal the Sunthetic proposal before time runs out next Monday, November 30?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): First of all, I'm not certain that the time of November 30 is as cataclysmic as the member for Parry Sound seems to think it is. I anticipate a large and very interesting meeting dealing with this proposal in Sudbury on Saturday morning. The member for Parry Sound, I hope, understands that the three local members have worked extremely hard to try to make this project happen. There is nothing that would make us happier than to see the Sunthetic project become a reality in Sudbury. We've worked extremely hard to see if that can be done.

The member for Parry Sound knows that there are very serious problems with the capacity excess in Ontario Hydro of some 3,500 megawatts, as I understand it, and that this excess capacity will last into the next century. So it is not simply a case of snapping one's fingers and saying that, despite what might happen to Hydro rates, we're going to approve projects such as this, not just in Sudbury but in other parts of the province as well. Having said that,

I can assure the member for Parry Sound that we are working as hard as we can, because obviously we would like very much to see the project happen.

Mr Eves: The company itself, Sunthetic Energy, the regional chair, the mayor of Sudbury, Sudbury council and the regional economic development corporation all agree that November 30 is indeed crucial, and if it passes, then this project very likely is going to southern California as opposed to northeastern Ontario.

Last evening your Premier said in a speech to Pollution Probe that he was "in favour of private sector involvement in creating energy and in the operation of Ontario Hydro." So it's all very well for you to come and talk about the overcapacity that Ontario Hydro currently has. Last year, as I pointed out to the Minister of Energy some time ago in this House, Ontario Hydro spent \$664 million retrofitting and repairing fossil-fuel plants that pollute the environment.

Why won't you get into some high-tech, fuel-efficient, cheap energy, as opposed to the expensive energy that pollutes the environment, and at the same time create jobs in northeastern Ontario? Why won't you do that?

Hon Mr Laughren: As a sign of our good faith in this whole effort, the Ministry of Northern Development funded a study to the tune of \$175,000 as our share of that cost, as an indication of our good faith in wanting to make this project happen.

But the member for Parry Sound very conveniently forgets the obligation of Ontario Hydro to pay off its debt, run up by his government and continued by the Liberal opposition. That government started the Darlington project over our objections. It was completed by the Liberal government over our objections and now, as Ontario Hydro's ratepayers have to pay off that massive debt, the member for Parry Sound has the nerve to stand up and ask that Hydro rates be increased even more. I find that really passing strange.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, as you know, York region has 28% of the provincial total of developmentally handicapped people in residential homes for special care.

I understand that most of the case management and advocacy work done in York region is done through the triministry funding. The triministry funding is crucial to the good work of the organizations that work with the developmentally handicapped in York, organizations like York Support Services Network, the Georgina Association for Community Living, the York South Association for Community Living and the Newmarket Association for Community Living.

Minister, I understand that this triministry funding is to be discontinued: \$1.3 million. I know that you are concerned about this issue. We spoke many times on this. In fact, the first time that I was made aware of it, I sent you a memo right away. That memo was dated July 15.

Minister, can you inform this House and my constituents in Durham-York what you're doing to address this

serious discontinuation of funding that is so vitally needed? I think it is a bad decision, Minister.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): I certainly would like to acknowledge the member's very hard work on this matter. He was indeed the first to bring to our attention the effect that the discontinuation of triministry funding would have in York region.

It was in the course of looking at the various organizations that had been funded by this fiscal funding over the years that we discovered that those funds had been used, in fact, to support whole agencies, when it was the impression of the central financial services branch that it was only to do sort of fee-for-service funding for case management for people in nursing homes. So it was a very valuable piece of information that he brought to our attention.

As I have said before in this House, if we had been fully apprised of the use to which these funds were put we would not have made the decision in the estimates process last year to discontinue this funding. We are working with all of the communities that are affected—and it's not just York and Simcoe; it's all of them—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Mrs Boyd: —to find ways to reallocate funds in order to ensure that the advocacy and case management services are continued.

Mr O'Connor: Minister, as you know, these associations have been using this as base funding, as you said. Minister, will you redirect the Barrie area office to quickly look at trying to resolve this issue? It's very serious and affects an awful lot of people. There are people who have no programs.

The other announcements that we've heard—is there a way that some of this could be shared? Will you direct the Barrie area office to resolve this, please?

Hon Mrs Boyd: I have already done so, and in fact have met, myself, with representatives from the Barrie area office and representatives from the various affected associations. We are working very hard not only within the area on reallocation but reallocation of provincial funds that may have been underspent in other areas in order to address this concern.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): My question is to the Treasurer.

Treasurer, last January you made a three-year announcement on operating transfers, on a multi-year basis, of 1%, 2% and 2% to hospitals. Today I heard you announce in your statement a 2% transfer on a onetime-only basis, and a transfer that would not be added to the base of hospitals.

The Ministry of Health statement, which I have here, says that the actual transfers to all hospitals will be a one-time-basis 0.5% increase for 1993-94, and will not be added to the base. In another place, the Ministry of Health documentation says base operating budgets for hospitals will be capped at 1992-93 levels for two years.

Mr Speaker, I am choosing my words carefully because I believe the information that the Treasurer provided in his announcement on transfers respecting hospitals is, in my view, not factual, and that there has been a deliberate attempt to cloud this issue. I'm asking the Treasurer if he will speak very clearly and answer to all of the hospitals, to each and every hospital in Ontario, what increase, if any, in the next fiscal year each hospital will receive to its base operating budget.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Mr Speaker, that's clearly a question that should be directed to the Minister of Health, and I'll so do.

1530

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I'm pleased to respond to that question. I think the Treasurer's statement was in fact quite clear in that what we would have available in all of the major transfer sectors this year would be a fund equivalent to 2% of onetime dollars to spend, and that wouldn't be folded into base budgets.

In the hospital sector, what that means is that we have to work towards restructuring, maintaining services, stabilizing the situation and trying to preserve jobs in the best way we can with that fund. I have set out a proposal to the hospitals and we'll be working with them and other stakeholders, DHCs and the unions involved, to work through what is the best way to utilize that money.

The proposal we have put forward is that as of April 1 we would transfer 0.5% to all hospitals; to small hospitals in Ontario there would be an additional 1% and to small hospitals in the north there would be on top of that again an additional 1%. To stabilize, they would be able to spend that money. We would hopefully see that during the course of the year some of that money could be used in restructuring. Their base budgets would not be increased by that amount, however.

In addition to that, we would set out funds for restructuring for appropriate new innovations like quick response teams to divert people from hospital admissions. Overall, I think the package is one that's workable, a proposal to the hospital sector we'll work with them to implement.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired. Motions.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This is a significantly important question. The ministerial statements which were made today—

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat, please.

Mrs Sullivan: The hospitals must have this information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Would the member please take her seat. I appreciate her interest in these matters.

PETITIONS

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"As persons who believe that all people have the right to share in all elements of living in the community and that

people should be supported to participate effectively, we ask that you place a pause on your decision to cut \$5 million from the sheltered workshop system. This move places people with disabilities at an unnecessary risk. The planned cut can only jeopardize the gains that have been made in recent years in developing community-based supports for people."

It's signed by 414 persons from my riding, and I affix my signature.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I agree with this petition and I have signed it.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 33 residents of the county of Middlesex, who petition the Legislative Assembly to set aside the report of arbitrator John Brant as it relates to the greater London area annexation because the arbitrator's report does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority of the population of London and Middlesex, who believe that the area of annexation awarded to the city of London is far too extensive, that Bill 75 that emanated from the report will jeopardize the county of Middlesex, agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex, our rural way of life, and since there are alternative proposals, that these be addressed.

I've signed my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislative assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

It's signed by 30 residents of my riding. I affix my signature.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the government of Ontario, and this is on behalf of a number of petitioners in North Bay:

"As a person who believes that all people have the right to share in all elements of living in the community and that people should be supported to participate effectively, we ask that you place a pause on your decision to cut \$5 million from the sheltered workshop system. This planned cut can only jeopardize the gains that have been made in recent years in developing community-based supports for people. As well, the move places people with disabilities at an unnecessary risk."

I'm happy to add my name to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have a petition signed by many people from right across Ontario with regard to Bill 38, the Retail Business Holidays Act:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I have a petition signed by a number of residents from my community addressed to the Lieutenant Governor.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal' holiday and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I have affixed my signature thereto.

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This is another petition from the people of Markham and communities thereabouts.

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has released a list of 19 proposed sites"—by the way, this is before the final list came out last week, which has brought it down to five or six in York region—"in the region of York as possible candidates for landfill, two of which are located in the riding of Markham; and

"Whereas the decision to prohibit the regions of the greater Toronto area from searching for landfill sites beyond their boundaries is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, subsection 5(3); and

"Whereas the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to a review of all options as it pertains to waste disposal in Ontario,

"We, the undersigned, protest and petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario repeal Bill 143 in its entirety and allow a more democratic process for the consideration of future options for the disposal of greater Toronto area waste, particularly the consideration of disposal sites beyond the boundaries of the greater Toronto area where a 'willing host' community exists who is interested in developing new disposal systems for the greater Toronto area waste."

This has been signed by several hundred people before the short list came out. I have affixed my signature to it and lend my support to everything we can do to stop the dumps.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I have a petition here. It's signed by many people across Windsor and Essex county from La Salle, Tilbury, Cottam, Harrow, Wheatley, Stoney Point, several areas. It's to the Honourable Marion Boyd, Minister of Community and Social Services.

"We, the undersigned, request that you place a pause on your decision to cut the millions of dollars from the sheltered workshop system. This decision, which you made without consulting and receiving input from the people of Ontario, will definitely jeopardize the gains that have been made in recent years in the development of community-based supports for individuals with developmentally handicapped in their families.

"This decision will affect individuals and their families supported by the Essex County Association for Community Living and Windsor Community Living Support Service."

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): No, no. Wrong form. Sit down.

Mr Hayes: I'd appreciate the Liberal member not telling me to sit down when I'm reading a petition that pertains to people in my community.

1540

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I have a petition with regard to equal funding signed by a number of my constituents who reside around the St Fidelis Catholic school area, and it reads as follows:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metro Toronto; and

"Whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterparts;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned, so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully, but with equity and equality."

A number of people have signed this, and I too will affix my signature to this petition. Thank you.

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I too have a petition signed by many rural residents and it's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas rural Ontario continues to lose its voice in the Ontario Legislature; and

"Whereas northern Ontario's guaranteed a specific number of seats in the Legislative Assembly;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to recognize the needs of rural Ontario by taking measures to guarantee rural seats and to take into consideration requirements and representation of rural ridings in the next redistribution of electoral districts."

As I said, signed by numerous rural residents, and I have affixed my signature to this petition. Thank you.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): I have a petition to the government of Ontario, signed by several thousand people from Windsor.

"We, the undersigned, call on the government of Ontario to cancel its decision to cut funding to community services for people who are developmentally handicapped. The effects of such cuts will provide unacceptable hardship and suffering for vulnerable people and their families. Many parents are already at a breaking point in their lives and are not able to wait much longer for help from the service system which is already underfunded. Further cuts cannot be accepted.

"In the city of Windsor, hundreds of citizens depend on services funded by the province of Ontario. The government must act to protect these services and the jobs of the hundreds of dedicated workers who provide such an essential resource to our community."

I would like to affix my name too. Thank you.

Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville): I have a petition signed by over 1,500 residents of the city of Windsor that was provided to me from the Windsor Community Living Support Service. This they were able to obtain over a one-week period and it states:

"We, the undersigned, call on the government of Ontario to cancel its decision to cut funding to community services for people who are developmentally handicapped. The effects of such cuts will provide unacceptable hard-

ship and suffering for vulnerable people and their families. Many parents are already at a breaking point in their lives and are not able to wait much longer for help from a service system which is already underfunded. Further cuts cannot be accepted.

"In the city of Windsor, hundreds of citizens depend on services funded by the province of Ontario. The government must act to protect these services and the jobs of the hundreds of dedicated workers who provide such an essential resource to our community."

I've signed that petition as well.

Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton): I have approximately 200 petition cards here and they read as follows:

"I would ask that you place an immediate pause on your decision to cut \$5 million from the sheltered workshop system.

"In recent years, Petrolia Enterprises workshop has been reformed significantly, and this planned cut will jeopardize seriously the important gains made for individuals who participate in the programs. Because we have high waiting lists in our area, please do not destroy the sheltered workshop system, but encourage the development of alternatives to meet the needs of persons from our area who depend on service from the Lambton County Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

"Please rethink any further cutbacks made in the areas of social services as it is unfair to slash the basic supports to individuals with developmental handicaps in our community.

"I look forward to receiving your written reply to confirm what measures your ministry has taken to ensure support in the future of vulnerable children and adults."

PUBLIC HOUSING

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I have a petition.

"We, the residents of the Firgrove community located in the riding of Yorkview, fully agree and support Mr Mammoliti's private member's bill, resolution 34.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to accept resolution 34 and are confident that the resolution will be beneficial to the Firgrove community."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LONG TERM CARE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES SOINS DE LONGUE DURÉE

On motion by Mrs Boyd, on behalf of Ms Lankin, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 101, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Long Term Care / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui concerne les soins de longue durée.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have a few comments, Minister?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): No comments, Mr Speaker, but another bill.

PAY EQUITY AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR L'ÉQUITÉ SALARIALE

On motion by Mrs Boyd, on behalf of Mr Mackenzie, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 102, An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'équité salariale.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have any brief comments, Minister?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): No comments.

FIREFIGHTERS PROTECTION ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'IMMUNITÉ DES POMPIERS

On motion by Mr Pilkey, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 103, An Act to provide firefighters with protection from personal liability and indemnification for legal costs / Loi visant à accorder l'immunité aux pompiers et à les indemniser de leurs frais de justice.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Any comments, Minister?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): The bill provides protection from personal liability to firefighters who act in good faith in performance of their duties. It also requires municipalities, in the case of municipal fire departments, and the crown, in the case of fire protection teams in territories without municipal organization, to indemnify firefighters for their legal costs in successfully defending civil actions and other legal proceedings.

The protections of this bill extend to employee and volunteer firefighters. They do not, however, relieve the crown or municipalities from their liability for torts committed by firefighters.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT ACT
(CONDOMINIUM MILL RATE), 1992LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LES MUNICIPALITÉS
(TAUX DU MILLIÈME DES CONDOMINIUMS)

On motion by Mr Cousens, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 104, An Act to amend the Municipal Act to provide for a Special Mill Rate for Condominium Units / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les municipalités afin de prévoir un taux du millièème particulier pour les parties privatives de condominium.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Cousens, do you have comments to make?

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This is a bill that would give municipal councils an opportunity to equalize the treatment of condominiums with residential homes. Residential condominiums, residences, would be given a similar mill rate, where councils would decide upon it.

1550

FARM ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE FINANCEMENT
DES ORGANISMES AGRICOLES

On motion by Mr Buchanan, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 105, An Act to provide Stable Funding for Farm Organizations that provide Education and Analysis of Farming Issues on behalf of Farmers / Loi prévoyant un financement stable pour les organismes agricoles qui offrent des services d'éducation et d'analyse en matière de questions agricoles pour le compte des agriculteurs.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): This act is designed to ensure that Ontario's general farm organizations receive the kind of stable financial support they need to continue serving all Ontario farmers. Their efforts include education, research, marketing and providing policy advice to the government.

It will also improve the government's ability to develop and implement effective plans and programs for the benefit of the entire agriculture and food community.

This legislation was developed in partnership with the three general farm organizations: the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario region of the National Farmers' Union and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

The proposal of this initiative was drawn up by a steering committee representing these groups and submitted to the Ontario farmers for their comments through a series of open-house meetings and a toll-free telephone line. Farmers could also provide written submissions regarding the proposal.

I'd like to thank everyone for their dedicated efforts in bringing this initiative forward. Under the legislation, all Ontario farm businesses with gross incomes of \$7,000 or more will be required to pay an annual fee of \$150, which will be distributed to the three general farm organizations I mentioned earlier. Other farm organizations with a broad-based mandate may also apply to be recognized for funding purposes.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): It's a bit too long, Minister.

Hon Mr Buchanan: The farm businesses subject to the act will also be required to register with my ministry and update the information annually.

I just want to compliment the general farm organizations and the farmers across the province for all the work they've done in allowing us to bring this forward. I look forward to support from all members in the House when this legislation comes forward.

The Deputy Speaker: I'd just like to remind the members that when you introduce a bill the remarks have to be brief.

TERANET INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LA DIVULGATION
DE RENSEIGNEMENTS CONCERNANT TERANET

On motion by Mr Tilson, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill 106, An Act to provide for Access to Information relating to the affairs of Teranet Land Information Services

Inc / Loi prévoyant l'accès aux renseignements concernant les activités des Services d'information foncière Teranet Inc.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Do you have any brief remarks?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): This bill overrides the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to provide for access to information relating to the affairs of Teranet Land Information Services Inc, a corporation owned jointly by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Real/Data Ontario Inc.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ADVOCACY ACT, 1992, AND COMPANION LEGISLATION

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'INTERVENTION ET LES PROJETS DE LOI QUI L'ACCOMPAGNENT

Consideration of Bill 74, An Act respecting the Provision of Advocacy Services to Vulnerable Persons / Loi concernant la prestation de services d'intervention en faveur des personnes vulnérables; Bill 108, An Act to provide for the making of Decisions on behalf of Adults concerning the Management of their Property and concerning their Personal Care / Loi prévoyant la prise de décisions au nom d'adultes en ce qui concerne la gestion de leurs biens et le soin de leur personne; Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment / Loi concernant le consentement au traitement; and Bill 110, An Act to amend certain Statutes of Ontario consequent upon the enactment of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 and the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 / Loi modifiant certaines lois de l'Ontario par suite de l'adoption de la Loi de 1992 sur l'intervention, de la Loi de 1992 sur le consentement au traitement et de la Loi de 1992 sur la prise de décisions au nom d'autrui.

Hon Shirley Coppin (Minister without Portfolio): Mr Speaker, I call the fifth order of the day, and we have an agreement to divide the time equally.

House in committee of the whole.

The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I will now leave the chair and proceed to the table to deal with the committee of the whole House business and bills that have been brought to our attention. Before we start, I would like to read the following that was an agreement on a motion of Mr Cooke:

"That two sessional days be allotted to further consideration of the bills in the committee of the whole House. All amendments proposed to be moved to the bills shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly by 4 pm on the last sessional day on which the bills are considered in the committee of the whole House. Any divisions required during clause-by-clause consideration of the bills in committee of the whole House shall be deferred until 5:45 pm on the last sessional day that the bills are to be considered in the committee of the whole House. At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put

every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bills and any amendments thereto and report the bills to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession."

We have four bills before us. We have allocated some time, and I'm in your hands to decide how you want to divide this time. So you tell me, you give me your instructions, and I will abide by them.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): It's my understanding that there's an all-party agreement to divide the time equally this afternoon and whatever other day. What is the other item we're agreeing to?

The Chair: Can we divide the time also on the bill.

Hon Mr Cooke: Right. The other item we have agreed to is that rather than having the requirement that five people stand for each division, if either of the critics indicate there's a recorded division, then that will be adequate to do that—my head's not working today; it might not ever work—and that each vote is going to take place at the end of each bill. Or are we going to stack? This was actually Norm's request.

1600

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): My preference was to go through section by section, vote on the sections in terms of voice votes and then, if either party wanted to divide, we could divide and we could do the divisions all at once at the end of the bill. I think the critic for the Liberal Party is agreeing. I think it makes more sense.

The Chair: Do we all agree with that?

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): Just a question of clarification: Will we require, if we request a division, five members to stand in their place, or will it be assumed that once the request is made, that's appropriate?

Hon Mr Cooke: No, they'll just request it.

The Chair: I'd just like to mention to you exactly what you've told me, and this is what we'll follow. First, the time will be divided equally; we all agree with that. Second, any votes are going to be stacked at the end of the bill; we agree to that. And only one person can stand up to have the vote recorded instead of five.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, maybe it's an interpretation of language. You said "any votes." It's my understanding you would call each section as we went through it and, unless there was an indication by either party that it wanted to divide on the vote, then it would pass or it would fail, but the vote on the divisions would occur at the end.

The Chair: Exactly right. You understood very well.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Chair, if I might on another issue, there was an amendment that was proposed to section 25 of Bill 74 in committee that was in fact declared out of order. We have an all-party agreement that this amendment will be by unanimous consent agreed to be in order. I would just like to table this amendment now so that the matter can be cleared up right at the beginning of the discussion.

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chairman, if I may, I'd just like to clarify for the record that the amendment which is out of order is one which was not put to committee and which is being put for the first time before the House. We have agreed on our party's behalf to consent to provide unanimous consent for its introduction, but this has not been before the committee in the past.

The Chair: Is that agreed? Is that okay?

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): Just on another point, Mr Chairman: I was wondering if we could have the indulgence of the House to allow me and other members to speak from other than their place; ie, I would like the opportunity to consult with my colleague Norm Sterling and would like to sit down in that row, if that's possible. I note the Minister of Citizenship is not in her usual place.

The Chair: It's very unusual to do that but if the House decides this is the case, don't forget you're creating a precedent.

Hon Mr Cooke: Hell, it's Christmas.

The Chair: Okay.

Mr Sterling: We wouldn't normally require this, but we're into a piece of legislation where there are I think about 40 amendments to this bill and probably overall there are about 120 amendments. If we want to go through this with some kind of speed, it requires a fair bit of consultation to try to get it through.

The Chair: But, you see, one of the problems that may occur is that I'm here sitting in the chair and then somebody else may sit in another seat and interject and it's totally out of order. So what do I do?

Mr Sterling: Why don't you allow the member for Simcoe West to occupy the seat of the member for London North?

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Might I ask for unanimous consent that this take place, so therefore it is not a precedent?

Hon Mr Cooke: It's already been granted.

The Chair: The member for Simcoe West, vacate your chair to take another chair.

Mr Jim Wilson: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I always wanted to move to the front row. I prefer the front row on the government's side, mind you.

The Chair: Are there any questions, comments or amendments, and if so, to which sections of the bill?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations): I'd like to make a few comments about the sections that will be amended from the government's side, if that's in order.

The Chair: Would you like to list first your amendments?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Yes, I will list them. The sections that will be amended are subsections 5(2) and 5(7); section 7—

The Chair: Would you go a little slower, please. Section 5, motion?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Just one moment. Subsections 5(2), (5.1), (7); subsections 7(4.1), (6), (7)—we can provide you with a copy of this, Mr Chair—subsection 9(3); section 14; section 15; section 16; subsections 17(1) and (1.1); subsection 19(3); subsection 20(2); subsections 22(2) and (3); clauses 23(1)(a), (b) and (d); subsections 24(3), (6) and (7); section 25; section 26; subsections 27(1), (2), (3) and (4); section 28, paragraphs 8 and 9 and subsection 28(2); clauses 29(2)(a), (b) and (c); section 29.1; section 30; subsections 31(1), (4), (5), (6), (9), (10) and (11); subsections 32(1), (2), (4), (5), (6) and (9); section 33; section 34; section 35.1; section 35.2; subsection 36(3); subsection 38(1); clauses 39(1)(a.1), (d.1) and (e), and that is it.

The Chair: Are there any further amendments to the bill?

Mrs Sullivan: I have a number of amendments to be put to Bill 74 to section 2; subsection 5(2); subsection 5(5)—am I going too quickly? Fine—subsections 6(1.1), (1.2) and (1.3); clause 7(1)(k), clause 7(1)(l), clause 7(1)(m); subsection 7(7); subsections 11(9) and (10); paragraph 16(1)6; section 19.1; subsection 20(2); subsection 21(2); subsection 22(6); subsections 23(6) to (8); subsection 24(2.1); section 24.1; clauses 26(2)(c) and (d); subsection 26(4); subsection 27(1); section 28, paragraphs 5, 6 and 7; clauses 29(1)(b) and (c); clause 29(2)(c); subsection 31(6.1); subsection 36(2.1); subsection 39(1); and that's it.

1610

The Chair: Do you have any amendments, Mr Sterling?

Mr Sterling: Our caucus has decided that we had fought many battles in committee and we're not going to refight at least all of those at the present time.

We have amendments on subsection 5(2), section 14, section 16.1 and subsections 21(2) and 22(3.1), and that's the extent of them.

The Chair: We'll now proceed. Shall sections 1 to 4 stand as part of the bill?

Mrs Sullivan: I have an amendment to section 2, Mr Chairman.

The Chair: I apologize. Shall section 1 stand as part of the bill? Agreed?

Mrs Sullivan: Agreed.

The Chair: Agreed.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, I want to take about two or three minutes of my time just to indicate that while my caucus is engaging in a constructive manner with regard to these amendments and the process that we're going through, we think that notwithstanding the good intentions of providing advocacy under an Advocacy Commission, enormous costs of \$36 million for this service cannot be justified in these economic times.

As you know, Mr Chairman, we had people on the front lawn of this Legislature at noontime today concerned about the funding of things like ARC workshops, workshops for vulnerable people, where this government has decided to decrease the funding by \$5 million for those individuals.

Our question is, is the creation of an advocate to represent some of those people and join them on the front lawn to complain about the underfunding of that program in fact going to assist them in getting the needed training that these very vulnerable people have? Our answer is that it does not help them at all. This point was made very early on in the hearings by the adult protection workers of this province. These are 175 individuals who are spending about 40% of their time advocating for vulnerable people now in communities across Ontario. They said the problem was not so much identifying the problem; the problem was having somebody respond to that problem from the government of Ontario, municipal governments and the federal government.

Therefore, while nobody in this Legislature, as I understand it, is concerned with the utilization of advocates, it's a problem in terms of priority of moneys. We just think that at this time to cut off funding to useful programs like ARC workshops for very vulnerable adults is a misallocation of resources.

That will be our overall position with regard to supporting this bill in the end. We have recognized that the government does not agree with us in terms of its priority in spending. They would rather spend money, as we interpret this, on people giving rights than actually providing real services. Then, so be it. We will continue to be constructive in trying to get the best possible Advocacy Commission, taking into account their majority and their will on this particular matter.

The Chair: Minister, do you wish to make any comments on Mr Sterling's comments?

Hon Ms Ziembra: Just to clarify one point. First of all, in the cost related to advocacy, it's \$23 million for the Advocacy Act and \$36 million for all three bills. I just wanted to clarify that particular position.

I want to say very clearly that the intent of this act is make sure that all vulnerable adults have their rights protected, are empowered and continue to live with respect and dignity. We feel this is a service that will ensure their rights. We'll continue to work towards making sure that they are respected.

This is a very needed bill. The intent of going through with these particular bills at this particular time is the recognition that many vulnerable adults have not been able to live in dignity and with respect. The time has come for us to proceed with making sure that this happens in our Ontario.

Mrs Sullivan: As we are beginning our discussion with Bill 74, I think it's important to recognize that this bill is part of a package of bills with respect to the advocacy services which will be provided to vulnerable people as well as to consent to treatment and substitute decisions.

This package of bills was introduced in April of the previous year. Through that time the process has been less than satisfactory in terms of reaching accommodation and understanding changes that were absolutely required to make these bills workable and useful, not only for vulnerable people but for people who would have to work with them in the provision of services.

I want to remind the House again that, as we went into committee on these bills, there were 199 government amendments placed. It was only at the insistence of the opposition that public hearings were held subsequent to the placing of that number of amendments. As a consequence of those hearings, additional amendments have come forward, only, however, after substantial change not only to the direction but in fact to the purpose of the bills.

We believe that throughout this process the changes have been wrought, frankly, with much hand wringing, much expense to various groups and organizations and much time spent by individual volunteers that may not have had access to legal services and were concerned about participating in this process and about the content of the bills.

Although we are not requiring that the bills, particularly Bill 74, be taken from the table, this is a very different bill than was first presented to the House. We are pleased, frankly, with some of the amendments that have been put in the latter days of the bill, before it was made available to the House this afternoon.

However, I just want to underline that the extent of protest and the depth of concern leading right from individuals and organizations that have never responded on political issues in the past, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, were necessitated because of the sloppiness, the clumsiness and the lack of forethought before these bills were even presented in this place.

Mr Jim Wilson: I just want to briefly follow up on the comments made by my colleague Norm Sterling. The minister in her response indicated that perhaps it isn't going to be \$36 million to implement all that is required under Bill 74 and implement the advocacy system that's envisioned, that perhaps it's \$23 million. I'd remind the minister that during the standing committee hearings the public trustee indicated that for his share of what's required alone, we had a leaked memo that indicated it would be \$48 million.

1620

Throughout the two sets of public hearings, we were never able to obtain from the government an analysis of what the exact cost would be. It's something the government was very coy about. It never answered our questions in committee, and Hansard will show that regarding the exact cost of this legislation.

So all we know is that it's several millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars to implement a system that I guess my caucus colleagues and I have some problems with in terms of the evidence that we heard during the standing committee hearings, really pointed to the question of resources and the questions asked by committee members and responded to by witnesses through that process.

I certainly came away with a very strong feeling that resources are needed out there. For instance, we heard evidence that people, particularly psychiatric patients, were being locked out of their boarding homes. That's against the law. Anyone who has duly paid rent cannot be locked outside.

Those people have a right, as it is, without having an Advocacy Commission, to go to their member of provincial Parliament and the member of provincial Parliament must advocate on behalf of constituents. If MPPs aren't doing their jobs, then I suggest perhaps they need some more resources in their offices to better represent their constituents.

I could never understand, in this whole system the government wants to spend on, what an advocate's going to do if a vulnerable person says: "Lookit, I need a place to stay. I need a residence." The fact of the matter is, if you're going to spend \$43 million to \$48 million on an advocacy system, that means there'll be fewer places for homeless people to stay.

We had indications in committee when people would come and say, "The quality of care, the consistency of care in a particular nursing home setting is a problem." Those people don't necessarily need advocates. What they need is resources and they need the provincial Parliament for that area and the government itself to send in inspectors and ensure that nursing homes are meeting the standards now legislated under law.

I guess we also had a particular problem and continue to have a problem of why—we think this bill goes too far in terms of inserting an advocate into decision-making processes which should simply involve a vulnerable person and his or her family, a vulnerable person and his or her loved ones or care givers.

What the government and its NDP ideology is attempting to do with this legislation is to insert an advocate, a state-paid advocate, between the family and the vulnerable person, and we object to that.

Where I did have a great deal of sympathy and where I think the greatest need for resources and where there is a need for advocates and we currently have advocates in the psychiatric sectors and psychiatric hospitals. Almost all of the evidence, if any member cared to review the Hansards, would lead to the conclusion that we should be spending what limited financial resources we have to boost the advocacy in the psychiatric sector. What we've seen is a bill that again goes too far. It imposes on all aspects of a vulnerable person's life and that relationship with their family.

As such, my caucus colleagues and I, although we will work together during this committee process because we have a gun to our heads—and we realize the government's going to go ahead and it has the majority in this Parliament; it is going to go ahead and implement this legislation and indeed pass this legislation—we will do what we can in committee to try and come up with the best piece of legislation. But at the end of the day, I don't think we'll be supporting Bill 74.

The Chair: Minister, do you wish to comment?

Shall section 1 stand as part of bill? Agreed.

We will now deal with the amendment brought by Mrs Sullivan. Would you please read your amendment.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that the definition of "vulnerable person" in section 2 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out and the following substituted:

"'vulnerable person' means a person who, because of a mental or physical disability, illness or infirmity, whether temporary or permanent,

"(a) is unable to express or act upon his or her wishes or to ascertain or exercise his or her rights, or has difficulty in expressing or acting on his or her wishes or in ascertaining or exercising his or her rights, and

"(b) does not have another person who is appropriate, able and willing to assist him or her in exercising his or her rights, in expressing or acting on his or her wishes, or in ascertaining or exercising his or her rights."

The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mrs Sullivan has moved that the definition of "vulnerable person" in section—dispense? Dispense.

Some opening remarks on your amendment, the member for Halton North.

Mrs Sullivan: The amendment is put in the way it is to add on another criterion for the definition of "vulnerable person," that criterion being that there is nobody else available who can work with and assist a vulnerable person to achieve his or her rights or to access the services that are required.

We feel that the base of the bill is so broad that in fact it now covers people who don't need the services of the bill, and the amendment that's put, by adding a different subsection, combining existing subsections (a) and (b) and adding a new subsection, would in fact ensure that the people who really and truly need the services of advocates are those to whom the services are available.

Mr Jim Wilson: Very briefly, my caucus will be able to support this amendment. We feel that it does have a safeguard there to ensure that families and loved ones aren't shut out of the decision-making process.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I'm sorry that we cannot accept this motion. The whole intent of the Advocacy Act is to empower vulnerable adults. This particular amendment would take away the right of a vulnerable adult to make the choice and have his own decision about whether he needs an advocate. The intention, of course, for us in this process is to make sure that vulnerable adults are treated with respect and are given those rights. We feel that many family members will come forward wanting advocates and will use them as resources and have that option to do so.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mrs Sullivan: In fact, the amendment does not limit the right of the vulnerable person to access an advocate. The limiting factor is the word "appropriate." The vulnerable person himself or herself will determine if the person is appropriate. In the absence of that, a determination that another person is available who is appropriate, the vulnerable person will still be able to access an advocate and instruct the advocate in the normal way.

The Second Deputy Chair: Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Sullivan's amendment carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the amendment defeated.

Mrs Sullivan: I'd like a vote at the conclusion of the procedure.

The Second Deputy Chair: The voting process will be stacked to the termination of the bill. Further amendment?

Mrs Sullivan: I have an amendment to subsection 5(2). I think we have to go through 3 and 4 before that. Am I correct?

The Second Deputy Chair: We will be having a vote on section 2. We now have government amendments and we have opposition amendments. Government amendments first.

1630

Hon Ms Ziemba: I'm very pleased to bring forward these amendments. The amendments are necessary to make sure that we have effective changes to the composition and the functioning of the commission itself. We feel that this will strengthen the bill itself and will make it a much more workable and effective process.

The Second Deputy Chair: Can I ask you to read your amendment so that it would be on Hansard, please.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Certainly.

I move that subsection 5(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(2) The commission shall consist of a chair and twelve other members, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the minister's recommendation.

"(2.1) The chair and eight of the other members shall be appointed from persons recommended to the minister by the appointments advisory committee in accordance with section 16.

"(2.2) The four remaining members shall be appointed from persons who, in the opinion of the minister, have demonstrated a commitment to the purposes of this act.

"(2.3) Despite subsection (2.1), a person who has not been recommended by the appointments advisory committee may be appointed to a position referred to in subsection (2.1) if,

"(a) the appointments advisory committee does not make a recommendation to the minister in accordance with section 16 within sixty days after being requested by the minister to do so; or

"(b) it is not possible to comply with subsection 6(1) by appointing a person recommended by the appointments advisory committee."

I move that section 5 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(5.1) The commission may continue to operate pending the filling of a vacancy."

I move that subsection 5(7) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(7) Despite subsection (4), four of the persons first appointed in accordance with subsection (2.1), other than the chair, and two of the persons first appointed in accordance with subsection (2.2) shall hold office for five-year terms and shall not be reappointed.

"(8) Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

"(9) Despite subsection (8), the commission may exclude the public from any meeting or part of a meeting if it is satisfied that,

"(a) matters involving public security may be disclosed;

"(b) financial or personal or other matters may be disclosed of such a nature that the desirability of avoiding public disclosure of them in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that meetings be open to the public;

"(c) a person involved in a criminal proceeding or civil suit or proceeding may be prejudiced;

"(d) personnel matters or property acquisitions will be discussed;

"(e) instructions will be given to or opinions received from the solicitors for the commission;

"(f) the commission will deliberate whether to exclude the public from a meeting or whether to make an order under subsection (10); or

"(g) the public may be excluded in accordance with the regulations.

"(10) In situations in which the commission may exclude the public from meetings, it may make orders it considers necessary to prevent the public disclosure of matters disclosed in the meeting, including banning publication or broadcasting of those matters.

"(11) If the commission excludes the public from a meeting or makes an order under subsection (10), it shall have its reasons for doing so noted in the minutes of the meeting."

The Second Deputy Chair: I believe Mrs Ziemba has moved amendments to subsections 5(2), 5(5.1) and 5(7). I believe this is what was read into the record.

We have the official opposition with an amendment to subsection 5(2), which is—

Interjection.

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes, let us first deal with the amendment of subsection 5(2) by Mrs Ziemba, which terminates at "(b) it is not possible to comply with subsection 6(1) by appointing a person recommended by the appointments advisory committee." I believe that is the end of the amendment to subsection 5(2).

Mrs Ziemba has moved—

Mr Jim Wilson: Dispense.

The Second Deputy Chair: Dispense. Any debate on the amendment?

Mr Jim Wilson: For the sake of time, perhaps the minister will refrain from reading the entire bill and stick to the amendments.

I want to state publicly that we recognize that the government has made some significant movement in a positive direction towards making sure that there are four members of the commission who are from the public at large. I think the people of Ontario should realize that with this Advocacy Commission, for the first time in the history of Ontario, the government, through this legislation, is

setting up an arm's-length commission and the majority of its members will be members who have been vulnerable or may be vulnerable in the future.

Hence, our concern is that the commission, again, for the first time in the history of the province, is an arm's-length commission from government, that because the majority of its members under the legislation will have a bias, we're pleased to see that the government is now allowing some other public appointees to be put on that commission other than people who are vulnerable. Hence we'll be supporting the government amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: I would remind all members that it is imperative that the minister or anyone moving an amendment read the amendments in full.

Mrs Sullivan: In responding to the government amendments with respect to subsection 5(2), the members will know that there was enormous discussion at committee with respect to the composition of the commission itself. There was a competing sense from advocacy groups that the commission should be majority—indeed 100%—comprised of those people who at one point or another could become vulnerable or who had been vulnerable. That was the approach of the government in the first instance.

With the second look at the implications of that, the government has brought forward an amendment which is a singular improvement, in my view. You will note that I will have an amendment to subsection (6) which relates to this very point, and frankly, I've yet to determine whether to put it at this point.

But I think it is extremely vital, if the commission is going to work, that not only the questions about the issues in association with where people are vulnerable and where their rights may be interfered with, but also that the people who deliver services and who provide facilities, spaces, accommodation, education and recreational services, health care, should also be involved in the activities of the commission and have a place there. I think this amendment goes a substantial way to meet the needs and to provide a balance on the commission to ensure that service providers and others are in fact included.

If I can, Mr Chairman, I'd like to—I believe you have them before you—comment on my amendment which is listed under subsection 6(1.1). I won't read that into the record at this point, but my amendment would ensure that those four people whom the minister is appointing to the commission are people who are associated in a particular way with either services or organizations associated with vulnerable people, that they either be from organizations that provide housing, hospital, health care or other services to vulnerable people or that they be representatives of organizations of families or friends who provide services to vulnerable people.

The intent of my amendment is quite clear. Why these amendments have appeared in different sections I don't know; it appears to be recommendations from legal counsel. But I think it is important that we understand the vitality of the sectors that do provide services to vulnerable people and the importance of their participation in issues

surrounding vulnerable people. So in speaking to the minister's proposal, I inadvertently, or whatever, have to speak to my own as well.

1640

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on the government amendment to subsection 5(2)?

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I feel the government amendment is clearly very important, because what it does is it talks about the recognition of the rights of vulnerable individuals and their opportunity to participate in this debate, in fact. I think the impact it will have will be on all vulnerable individuals in Ontario and we have therefore to have a commission that is based on a majority of vulnerable individuals so that the discussion that takes place in the commission will be one that allows empowerment, respect, autonomy, freedom and dignity for all vulnerable people. The experience we have heard from people who are disabled who have come to speak was that there has to be a majority of vulnerable individuals on the commission. The coalition has come out strongly in support of recommending a majority of vulnerable people because of the type of representation that can bring and how they can reflect the needs of their own community, which is a need to be able to choose autonomy and to act on their own rights. I think that's a valuable point.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? Shall government amendment to section 5(2) carry? Agreed? Agreed.

The honourable member for Halton Centre I believe has a further amendment to the same subsection.

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chairman, I did have an amendment to subsection 5(2). It is included in the government motion and therefore I will not be putting it.

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan withdraws her amendment. I believe the minister has read in her amendment. The Progressive Conservative amendment, the member for Simcoe West.

Mr Jim Wilson: I think it would be appropriate to withdraw this amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: The member for Simcoe West, Mr Wilson, withdraws his amendment.

An amendment by Mrs Sullivan to subsection 5(5). The honourable member for Halton Centre?

Mrs Sullivan: I move that subsection 5(5) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out the word "may" in the third line and replacing it with the word "shall."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 5(5), that subsection 5(5) of the bill, as reprinted to show—

Mrs Sullivan: Dispense.

The Second Deputy Chair: Dispense? Dispense. The member for Halton Centre.

Mrs Sullivan: Thank you, Mr Chairman. We'll learn to dispense a lot faster later on, I'm sure.

Mr Chairman, this amendment is a technical amendment that I put in association with the amendment I have just withdrawn and which in fact encompasses the government's amendments. The government amendments now will require that the commission be comprised of 13 people, a chairman plus 12 others. Because the commission will statutorily be the 13 members, if a member's position becomes vacant, the commission will not be able to act, and if it does act, will act illegally.

As a consequence, it seems to me appropriate that the minister and the Lieutenant Governor in Council be required to replace the person in order for the commission to function.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on Mrs Sullivan's amendment? The honourable minister.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this amendment, as we have put in a further amendment that would clarify that the commission is allowed to operate pending the filling of the vacancy and we believe this addresses the concern if there is a vacancy. It's an appropriate way to deal with this particular motion.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? Shall Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 5(5) carry? Agreed?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the amendment lost.

I believe we move back to a government amendment which the minister has already read into the record as subsection 5(5.1). Does the minister want to make some brief remarks as to her amendment, the government motion?

Hon Ms Ziemba: No, thank you.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on Mrs Ziemba's amendment?

Seeing none, shall Mrs Ziemba's amendment to subsection 5(5.1) carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment carried.

There is a further amendment by Mrs Ziemba for the government, to subsection 5(7), which has been read into the record as part of a previous submission. Does Mrs Ziemba, the honourable minister, have some remarks on this amendment?

Hon Ms Ziemba: No.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on Mrs Ziemba's amendment?

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the minister to speak to this amendment. There was no discussion in committee with respect to this point, and I think that it's fair that the public and others understand what the significance of this amendment is.

The Second Deputy Chair: Could the honourable minister provide some clarification?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We felt that this amendment was very necessary to make sure that the accountability of the commission was there and that we'd addressed all the concerns of the various people who will be involved in advocacy delivery of services and also who might have reason to be part of the commission.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further participation, further debate?

Mr Malkowski: I think it's a very important amendment. Again, this speaks to empowerment and talks about changes to attitude, because people with disabilities, frail people, people who are elderly have typically not been empowered. In fact, we have to begin to focus on their abilities as opposed to looking at gaps or disabilities.

If we look at Father Sean O'Sullivan's words, he said how important it is to recognize vulnerable individuals as important contributing citizens to the province of Ontario. That needs to be included. We can do that by including vulnerable individuals as able and accountable people. That's a significant point in this amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further participation?

Mrs Sullivan: I can't help but respond to the comments just made by the parliamentary assistant, because indeed this amendment addresses very technical concerns with respect to how the meetings of the commission will be open to the public and how they will be closed to the public and under what circumstances. Indeed, there are some concerns that I have with respect to this particular amendment. Meetings may be closed for reasons that the public has no knowledge about, because of what's included in this amendment and because of decisions that are made behind closed doors and then put into regulations.

In fact, I believe that in the circumstances surrounding the Advocacy Commission it probably is appropriate to have situations other than those that are usually associated with financial and personnel matters indeed conducted in camera. But perhaps, as we have limited time to deal with all of these bills, I'm just asking if the parliamentary assistant could stick to the point.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

1650

Mr Malkowski: I'd like to respond to that point just made. We do talk about accountability, and certainly that should be an open debate. But on specific information that does deal with privacy, of course things should be closed, and the coalition has recommended that also. Confidential information of a personal nature that includes financial situations and so on must be kept confidential and must be left to the discretion of the commission. Regulations, therefore, deal with that situation in terms of what information should be confidential and what should be public, depending on those regulations as set by the commission.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further participation?

Mr Sterling: I'd just like to say we support this amendment. It ensures more openness in the commission, and therefore we support it.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 5(7) carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the motion carried.

Shall section 5 of Bill 74, as amended, carry? Agreed? Agreed.

An opposition amendment, Mrs Sullivan.

Mrs Sullivan: Given the vote presented by the government on subsection 5(5), I will not be putting this amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan withdraws amendment to subsections 6(1.1), (1.2) and (1.3).

We have a further official opposition amendment to subsection 6(1.3).

Mrs Sullivan: I move that section 6 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(1.3) The chair shall be appointed from persons recommended to the minister by the appointments advisory committee in accordance with section 14."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved—dispense? Agreed. Mrs Sullivan, do you have some remarks on your amendment?

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment was put particularly to ensure that the chair of the commission is a person who is selected from organizations which represent and include vulnerable people, and not from the other group of people who are appointed to the commission. We feel that while it was important to have others represented on the commission who perhaps serve as deliverers, the chair should indeed come from a group which represents seniors or people with specific disabilities, as required under section 14.

In discussions with ministry staff with respect to this amendment, there was some concern as to whether indeed this situation had already been covered. My view is that it hadn't and that it wouldn't hurt to underline the intention in any case.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Sterling: We will not be supporting this amendment. We believe that the chair should come from the other group, the people whom this commission is to represent.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further participation? No? We will now call the vote. All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 6(1.3)? Agreed? No?

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that clause 7(1)(k) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the words "subject to the approval of the minister" after the word "establish" in the first line.

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan, do you have some opening remarks?

Mrs Sullivan: All the way through this process we have been concerned with respect to the accountability of the minister to this place, to the Legislature, and the government's involvement in the activities and review of the activities of the commission itself.

In our view, the commission has moved in breadth and structure far beyond what was desired originally by the advocacy groups and we feel that there should be a measure of accountability resting with the minister and with

the assembly that is not as clear as we feel it should be in this bill. We have a number of other amendments similar to this.

The Second Deputy Chair: Debate?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this amendment. The commission must have the authority to make such decisions. The whole intent of this legislation in the Advocacy Act is for the empowerment of vulnerable people who do know what is needed for training advocates. This would be taking away that intention.

Mr Sterling: That may well be so, and we don't take that away. The problem is that I think the commission will be put in the unenviable position of protecting the advocates. Therefore, I think it's more appropriate that someone else has a say with regard to the minimum qualification, the standards and the code of conduct. I think that should in fact be scrutinized by somebody outside the commission. Therefore, we support this particular amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will now vote on Mrs Sullivan's amendment. All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment? Agreed? No?

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the amendment is lost. We will be having a stacked vote.

We move again to the official opposition. Mrs Sullivan has an amendment to clause 7(1)(l).

Mrs Sullivan: I move that clause 7(1)(l) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the words "subject to the approval of the minister" after the word "establish" in the first line.

This is a similar amendment to the one I previously put. We feel that it's an error for there not to be greater involvement of the minister and greater responsibility taken for the activities of the commission by the minister as this process evolves and the Advocacy Commission evolves. What the minister is in fact doing is creating a new profession, a self-governing profession. We don't like that approach.

1700

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Sterling: For the same reasons we said on the last amendment, we would support this amendment.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this amendment, as outlined for the previous amendment. The argument still stands that the empowerment of vulnerable adults must be contained within the commission itself.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

We will now proceed to vote on Mrs Sullivan's amendment to clause 7(1)(l). All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment? Agreed?

Interjection: No.

The Second Deputy Chair: All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

The motion will be voted on in stacked votes.

We will proceed once again with an official opposition motion by Mrs Sullivan on behalf of her party.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that clause 7(1)(m) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "complaints from any person relating to advocates" in the fifth and sixth lines and substituting the following:

"(i) complaints from any person relating to the conduct of advocates and relating to the commission's performance of its functions, and

"(ii) appeals from decisions or findings of advocates or of the commission."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to clause 7(1)(m). Dispense? Agreed.

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment was prompted by concerns with respect to the review procedure. The government amendments that have come forward so far and the amendments made in the standing committee on administration of justice would commence review procedure for activities by advocates.

Those amendments, however, do not speak to malfunctioning or decisions which have been made by the commission or activities which have been undertaken by the commission or functions done by the commission, which is of concern to individuals who want to review those decisions or activities.

We feel this is a reasonable amendment and, as the initiative here is a new one, that it is also an appropriate one.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Jim Wilson: We'll be supporting this amendment. We think it's important that there be accountability both for advocates and the commission itself, given the fact that the commission has some pretty wide-sweeping, unprecedented powers in terms of allowing for systemic advocacy and giving authority for access to records. Certainly we feel it's a very important amendment and would hope the government will support it.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be supporting this amendment, as we have already introduced amendments that we'll probably be dealing with in a few minutes, that is, subsection 7(6) and subsection 7(7), which deal with this particular area of concern.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will now deal with Mrs Sullivan's motion. All those in favour? Agreed?

Interjection: No.

The Second Deputy Chair: All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Stacked vote; it will be voted on.

We now move to a government amendment to subsection 7(4.1).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 7 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be

amended by adding the following subsection after subsection 7(4):

"Suspension or revocation

"(4.1) The commission may suspend or revoke an authorization under subsection (2) or (4)."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment. Dispense? Agreed.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We feel this motion is necessary to make sure we implement the original policy and the intent of the bill, that the commission may suspend or revoke the authorization of an advocate or a community agency. It's strictly a housekeeping matter.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Shall Mrs Ziemba's amendment to subsection 7(4.1) carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment carried.

Further government amendment to subsection 7(6).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 7(6) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "include an opportunity for the person making the complaint to be heard" in the second, third and fourth lines and substituting "provide that the complainant may require a review of the complaint."

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you. Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 7(6). Dispense? Agreed.

Does the minister has some explanatory remarks?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Yes. This motion and the one to amend subsection 7(7) have been agreed to by myself and the provider groups, and they're necessary to allow the commission greater latitude in ensuring a fair and expeditious complaints review process.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

We will now deal with Mrs Ziemba's amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Ziemba's amendment carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment to subsection 7(6) carried.

Subsection 7(7), the honourable minister.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 7(7) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the response of the review committee" in the third and fourth lines and substituting "the result of a review under subsection (6)."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 7(7). Dispense? Dispense.

The honourable minister, some brief remarks?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Just a brief remark that again it allows the commission greater latitude in ensuring a fair and expeditious complaints review process.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Ziemba's amendment carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment carried.

We have a further amendment from the official opposition; Mrs Sullivan.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that subsection 7(7) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by

striking out the words "by the chair of the commission" in the fifth and sixth lines and replacing them with the words "by the minister."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment. Dispense? Agreed.

Mrs Sullivan, some opening remarks.

Mrs Sullivan: As I've indicated in speaking to a previous amendment, there was enormous concern about the entire review procedure with respect to advocates and their work, and the close ties between the commission, which defines their responsibilities, which defines their standards and code of ethics. We had hoped that there would be at least a review and approval outside of the scope of the commission for determining that activity.

We also believe that there may well be problems with the commission decisions themselves. The commission will have far-reaching powers, far-reaching scope, most of which the public will not see, because the commission, if the government proceeds to have its way, will be making regulations on its own without any other accountability or involvement of government.

As a consequence, and as a protection for people who have been badly served or who feel that they have been badly served either by the commission itself or by advocates, and who feel that they have not had a fair hearing in a review procedure in which the commission itself may be not only the defendant but also the judge, we believe there should be another independent resource for those people, and that resource should be the minister.

The Second Deputy Chair: Any further debate?

Mr Jim Wilson: Briefly, Mr Chairman, we won't be supporting this Liberal amendment. I think it suffices, with the review procedures that are now in place and with the government's amendments, to have the chair of the commission do this part of the review. I don't think you'd want to drag the minister in. I can picture that perhaps the Liberals or the PCs will be on the government side some day, and I think you'll have to spend all your time reviewing decisions of the Advocacy Commission.

1710

The Second Deputy Chair: Further comments?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We're not supporting this motion. The commission must have an arm's-length relationship with the government without political interference.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will now deal with Mrs Sullivan's amendment. All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment? Agreed?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the amendment lost.

We did not approve section 6 initially. We will now deal with section 7 first. Shall section 7, as amended, carry? Agreed?

Mrs Sullivan: No. On a point of order, Mr Chairman: We have a vote on 7(1)(l) in the stacked vote.

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes, we do have. We will revert back to section 6. Shall section 6 carry?

Mrs Sullivan: I believe there's also a vote on 6(1.1).

The Second Deputy Chair: We do. You're absolutely right. We continue. Shall section 8 of the bill, without amendments, carry? Agreed? Agreed.

We have a government amendment to section 9. Would the honourable minister first of all indicate what the amendment is, please?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 9(3) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "31(9)(d)" in the fourth line and substituting "31(9.1)(a)".

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 9(3). Dispense? Agreed. Opening remarks?

Hon Ms Ziemba: This is a consequential change. It's in place of a reference to a former subsection with one to the new subsection.

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 9(3). Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment to subsection 9(3) carried.

We'll revert back to section 6. There was a bit of confusion on one amendment which was indeed voted on and was lost. Shall section 6 of the bill carry?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

I declare section 6 of the bill carried.

I've just been reminded that section 9, as amended, has not been carried. All those in favour of section 9, as amended? Agreed? Agreed.

Section 9 of the bill is now carried.

Shall section 10 of the bill, where there are no amendments, carry? Agreed? Agreed. Section 10 carries.

We now move to section 11, where we have an amendment by the official opposition.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that section 11 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsections:

"(9) Such employees as are necessary for the proper conduct of the committee's work may be appointed under the Public Service Act.

"(10) The committee may purchase services for the proper conduct of its work."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to section 11—

Mrs Sullivan: Dispense.

The Second Deputy Chair: Dispense? Agreed. Mrs Sullivan.

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment relates to the operation of the advisory committee to the commission, which is given certain responsibilities under the bill, including: commenting on the impact of advocacy services provided by the commission on families; commenting on the impact of advocacy services on providers of health and social services; to consult and advise on the policies and procedures of the commission, which will clearly be and could be a

lengthy and arduous situation. The committee also is responsible for preparing an annual report which is submitted to the commission and to the Legislative Assembly. Without this kind of housekeeping amendment, the committee will not be free and will not have the amenities to conduct its work.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 11?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this amendment as it's unnecessary. It's implicit that funding may be provided for an advisory committee. It's not needed in the legislation to make that point.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mrs Sullivan: I don't think "implicit" is adequate. The advisory committees are there not to simply reflect upon and reflect the commission itself; they are there to do independent work and to make that work known. An implicit assumption that the services they will require to do their work are provided is simply inadequate. They must have those services, they must have those facilities and they must have the employees necessary in order to ensure that the perspective of the families of vulnerable people and of people who provide health services, housing services, vocational services and many, many other services are indeed considered and are handled in an appropriate way. The committee cannot do its work without not only an implicit understanding—which I don't believe is good enough—that services will be available, but without an actual understanding.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will now proceed to vote on Mrs Sullivan's amendment. All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment? Agreed?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

I declare the amendment lost.

Shall section 11 carry? Agreed? No.

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

I declare section 11 carried.

Shall sections 12 and 13, without amendments, carry? Agreed? Agreed. Sections 12 and 13 carry.

Section 14 has a government amendment. The minister, Mrs Ziemba.

1720

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 14 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Appointments advisory committee

"14(1) There shall be an appointments advisory committee consisting of nine persons appointed by the minister.

"Composition

"(2) The nine members of the committee shall be appointed in accordance with the following rules:

"1. Two members shall be appointed from persons nominated in accordance with subsection (5) by the organizations belonging to the category described in paragraph 3 of subsection 15(1).

"2. One member shall be appointed from persons nominated in accordance with subsection (5) by organizations belonging to each of the other categories described in the other paragraphs of subsection 15(1).

"Criteria for appointment

"(3) A majority of the members of the committee shall be persons who,

"(a) have or have had a physical or mental disability or an illness or infirmity likely to result in a physical or mental disability; or

"(b) are sixty-five years of age or older.

"Same

"(4) In the selection of persons to be appointed to the committee, the importance of assuring equitable representation by appointing persons of both sexes, members of minority groups and residents of all the regions of Ontario to the committee shall be considered.

"Appointment of members

"(5) Whenever it is necessary to appoint a person to the committee, the organizations belonging to the relevant category described in subsection 15(1) shall nominate two candidates, of whom the minister shall select and appoint one.

"Exceptions

"(6) Despite subsections (2) and (5), the minister may appoint to the committee a person who is not a person nominated by the organizations belonging to the relevant category described in subsections 15(1) if,

"(a) the organizations do not submit their nominations to the minister within sixty days after being requested by the minister to do so; or

"(b) it is not possible to comply with subsection (3) by appointing a person nominated by the organizations.

"Remuneration and expenses

"(7) The members of the committee shall be paid the remuneration fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, at a daily rate, and the reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties of this act.

"Term and reappointment

"(8) The members of the committee shall hold office for three-year terms and may be reappointed for one further three-year term.

"Vacancies

"(9) If a member's position becomes vacant, the minister may appoint a replacement to serve for the remainder of the member's term.

"Same

"(10) The appointments advisory committee may continue to operate pending the filling of a vacancy.

"Staggered terms

"(11) Despite subsection (8), four of the members first appointed under subsection (2), including not more than one of the members first appointed in accordance with paragraph 1 of subsection (2), shall hold office for five-year terms and shall not be reappointed."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 14. Dispense? Agreed. Would the minister have some explanatory notes, please?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Along with the motions to amend sections 15 and 16, it modifies and alters the appointments

advisory committee and the process for nominating persons to the commission and it conforms with the changes to the composition of the commission. The direct ministerial appointments to the committee have been dropped. They're not necessary to fill the gaps, as they are going to be represented within the commission itself. As well, we are addressing the fact that we wanted to have seniors' organizations with more representation, so there will be two members.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Sterling: One of the problems we have with this legislation is it makes it so complicated. We're setting up a commission, and then we're setting up an advisory committee to choose the people who sit on the commission.

This is an attempt by the government to say that this commission's going to be arm's length away from the government. Quite frankly, regardless of any of the other parties that might be in power, I would trust their judgement with regard to appointing commission members. I think you're getting beyond the point of being ridiculous in terms of creating committees to appoint other people. It's the height of bureaucracy, from our point of view, and I believe that if they wanted to do something underhanded or if a minister wanted to do something underhanded, it could be done with an advisory committee if that was the case.

All you're doing, in my view, is setting up an unnecessary body. We would trust the Liberals, if they were in power, to appoint the right people to the commission. We would trust the NDP, if they were in power, to appoint a fair representation—

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): That's news.

Mr Sterling: Yes, it is news in these days, but, notwithstanding that, the public has to have some faith in the fact that a government will appoint people to these commissions who are reasonable people who represent the communities they're supposed to. We just don't think it's necessary to go this extra step.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I'd like to draw the House's attention to the fact that this section allows the senior citizens, as a consumer group, to participate in the nomination process. In addition, two members out of nine on the appointments advisory committee will be seniors. This is appropriate for several reasons.

The Advocacy Act has but one purpose: to provide assistance to vulnerable adults who want help in exercising their rights to make choices and decisions. We who are not vulnerable expect those rights as a matter of course, but for individuals who've been made vulnerable, the right to make decisions about the most basic issues has often been denied.

I'm delighted to support the Advocacy Act, because I see it as an important means of ensuring that the rights of all Ontarians to make personal and health care decisions will be accorded due respect. Seniors in Ontario will particularly benefit from the implementation of the Advocacy Act and its sister legislation.

Many groups devoted to the needs and interests of our elderly population have petitioned successive governments for an independent, broad-based advocacy system to serve elderly people—not that all seniors are vulnerable.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. On a point of order, the honourable member for Halton Centre.

Mrs Sullivan: If I could just break into the member's discussion, we are speaking to a specific portion of the bill. We are on time allocation and we would just appreciate assistance in moving things along.

The Second Deputy Chair: I believe the honourable member was expressing her agreement that people over 65—and this is very much a part of this amendment.

Ms Carter: Maybe I'll just say a very few more words.

This is a crucially important package of legislation and one which I support without reservation. I urge its adoption by this assembly in the interests of personal autonomy for the elderly. The freedom to make our own choices and decisions is something most adults take for granted. Within our agist and sometimes elitist culture, there are many frail, elderly and disabled Ontarians who do not enjoy the same privilege. The Advocacy Act will help to right the balance.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further participation?

Mr Jim Wilson: The point here is that it's a sad day in society when the government needs two pages of rules to simply send a message out to the public that, "Hey, you can trust us, government, to consult with seniors and with all interested parties and groups before making an appointment to the advisory committee." I think these two pages of rules are more a reflection upon this particular government in office and its inability to properly consult and its overuse of the word "consultation."

In that sense, I'm going to have to support this set of rules, because I guess the government can't trust itself to consult with the human beings and the citizens of Ontario.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? Seeing none, Mrs Ziemba's amendment to section 14. Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment carry? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment carried.

Shall section 14 of Bill 74—I'm sorry. I've just been reminded by the table that there is a Progressive Conservative amendment to subsection 14(5.1).

Mr Jim Wilson: We'll be withdrawing that amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: The amendment has now been withdrawn. Therefore, we are dealing with section 14, as amended.

All those in favour of section 14, as amended? Agreed? Agreed. Section 14 carries, as amended.

1730

We have a government amendment to section 15 of the bill. Would the honourable minister care to proceed with her amendment?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 15 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Categories of organizations

"15(1) The categories referred to in section 14 are:

"1. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have a physical disability, illness or infirmity that is readily apparent, such as paralysis, amputation or a lack of physical coordination.

"2. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have a physical disability, illness or infirmity that is not readily apparent, such as AIDS, epilepsy or diabetes.

"3. Organizations representing persons sixty-five years of age or older.

"4. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have a psychiatric or emotional disability, illness or infirmity.

"5. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have a developmental disability.

"6. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have a neurological disability, illness or infirmity such as autism, Alzheimer's syndrome, traumatic head injury or a learning disability.

"7. Organizations representing persons who have or are perceived to have different types of disabilities.

"8. Patients' rights organizations.

"Organizations

"(2) In order to participate in the nomination process, an organization must have at least 10 members and,

"(a) in the case of an organization described in paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 of subsection (1), a majority of the members must be or have been persons who are described in the applicable paragraph as being represented by the organization;

"(b) in the case of an organization described in paragraph 7 of subsection (1), a majority of the members must be or have been persons who have or are perceived to have a disability referred to in paragraph 1, 2, 4, 5 or 6; and

"(c) in the case of an organization described in paragraph 8 of subsection (1), a majority of the members must be or have been persons who are receiving or have received health care services and who are concerned about their rights in that context."

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you. Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 15. Dispense? Agreed. Would the honourable minister have some explanatory notes on this amendment?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I will be very brief. I just want to say that these amendments coincide with the motions to amend sections 14 and 16 and modify and alter the appointments process.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Jim Wilson: Again, following what I said on the last amendment, the problem with this type of delineation of classes of citizens is that I think it leads to a divide-and-conquer society. I just want to put the government on warning that when someone now comes to this bill and wants to be considered as a person to sit on the advisory committee which advises the appointments advisory committee to advise the minister on who should be appointed to the commission, that person's going to have to read the bill and say, "Which one of these particular categories in

society do I belong to?" I think it's a dangerous precedent this government is setting in terms of trying to placate all these organizations and by listing them in legislation.

The philosophy of my party is that every citizen is entitled to fair treatment and equal treatment because they are citizens of this province. It's a sad day when the government feels it has to delineate a list of organizations. Everyone in this province must be treated fairly regardless of age, sex, colour, creed etc, and I think the charter speaks to that.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mrs Sullivan: Because the government, in its amendment, is changing the numbering to what is now basically included in the reprinted bill as section 16 with this amendment, I have a further amendment I will be putting that would affect this amendment; while it will be tied in, it in fact will deal with an amendment to section 16 in the reprinted bill, while the government's amendment changes this to 15.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will now deal with Mrs Ziemba's amendment. All those in favour of Mrs Ziemba's amendment? Agreed? Agreed. I declare the amendment carried.

We will now deal with section 15, as amended. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 15, as amended, carry? Agreed. Section 15 carries as amended.

We now proceed to section 16. We have amendments to section 16, the government amendment to be dealt with first.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 16 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Functions of appointments advisory committee

"16(1) The appointments advisory committee shall,

"(a) develop criteria and procedures for the selection of candidates for appointment to the commission under subsection 5(2.1); and

"(b) select candidates and recommend them to the minister for appointment to the commission under subsection 5(2.1).

"Number of candidates, chair

"(2) The committee shall select and recommend to the minister three candidates for the position of chair of the commission.

"Number of candidates, other positions

"(3) The committee shall select and recommend to the minister two candidates for appointment to each of the other positions under subsection 5(2.1)."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 16. Dispense? Agreed. Would the minister have some explanatory remarks?

Hon Ms Ziemba: This is again along with the motions to amend sections 14 and 16, and it proceeds with that very open and democratic process.

The Second Deputy Chair: Is there debate on Mrs Ziemba's amendment?

Mrs Sullivan: Once again, I want to underline that it's the view of our caucus that indeed the chairman should

come from a group of people who are in the categories associated with what would now be section 15, but is included in the reprinted bill as section 16. I hope that when the implementation is done, the minister will keep that in mind.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further discussion or debate?

We will now deal with Mrs Ziemba's amendment to section 16. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Ziemba's amendment carry? Agreed. I declare the amendment to section 16 carried.

We will now proceed with the second amendment.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that paragraph 6 of subsection 16(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by inserting after "syndrome" in the fourth line "schizophrenia."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 16(1), paragraph 6. Dispense? Agreed.

Mrs Sullivan: We had, in the course of public hearings on these bills, significant amounts of expert testimony in some areas. We have seen, as a result of that, many amendments come forward. In other cases, we've seen amendments come forward where there has been no expert testimony or no testimony at all.

None the less, this is one of those areas where we did have expert testimony, both from consumer groups and from health care providers who work in the field of the disabled and who believe very strongly, and whose research and clinical experience tells them, that people with the disability of schizophrenia are indeed suffering from a neurological disability. At the urging of those people, we believe that schizophrenics should be included in this section of the bill to ensure that they will also be considered for appointment to the commission.

We certainly had singular understanding, all the way through our public hearings as we were considering this bill, that there was an antipathy on the part of the government to the work of organizations such as the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics. While that antipathy may have been limited to one particular ministry, that being the Ministry of Citizenship, it was very clear, and certainly the organizations felt that and felt they were not a part of this section of the bill and this paragraph of the bill for that very reason.

1740

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Sterling: We support the amendment.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? We will therefore be dealing with Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 16(1). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Sullivan's amendment carry? Agreed?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

We have a new section to add on to 16, so we will now proceed with carrying section 16 as amended. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 16, as amended, carry? Agreed?

Mrs Sullivan: I'm sorry to interrupt the vote, but could I confirm if the third party will be presenting its amendment?

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes, it is an addition to section 16, so therefore we're dealing with what's already in the bill and this will be an add-on.

Mrs Sullivan: Clever.

The Second Deputy Chair: It's called 16, but it comes between 16 and 17, I'm told. This is new math.

Shall section 16, as amended, carry? Agreed? No.

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

I declare section 16, as amended, carried.

We will now move to the add-on. The honourable member for Simcoe West.

Mr Jim Wilson: I move that the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following section after section 16:

"Complaints review committee

"16.1(1) The commission shall establish a committee to be known as the complaints review committee.

"Composition

"(2) The committee shall be composed of such number of members as the commission determines and,

"(a) one third of the members shall be appointed by the commission; and

"(b) two thirds of the members shall be appointed by the advisory committee established under clause 11(1)(a) from among its members.

"Functions

"(3) The committee has the following functions:

"1. To consider complaints relating to the conduct of advocates and relating to the commission's performance of its functions.

"2. To hear appeals from decisions or findings of advocates or of the commission.

"Powers

"(4) The committee has the powers necessary to perform its functions and, in particular, may,

"(a) investigate and hold hearings into complaints;

"(b) substitute its decision or finding in a matter for that of the advocate or commission; and

"(c) impose disciplinary measures against an advocate if the committee determines that the advocate has acted improperly."

The Second Deputy Chair: Mr Wilson has moved an amendment to section 16. Dispense? Agreed? Agreed.

Mr Wilson, some explanatory notes, please.

Mr Jim Wilson: Very briefly, we're proposing that the legislation be amended to create a separate forum to which vulnerable individuals and the public may appeal for the review of decisions and actions of the Advocacy Commission. The legislation, as currently drafted, leaves it up to the Advocacy Commission itself to establish a review

procedure. We do not feel that this gives adequate protection for the public good. We're proposing that a complaints review committee be established to review complaints, review advocates' decisions, actions of the Advocacy Commission and to discipline members. I know Mr Sterling will want to add further to that.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate? The member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: This is one of the most serious areas of the bill I'm concerned with, because of the newness of this kind of legislation, because of the fact that the government hasn't been able to yet tell us what an advocate is; ie, what his or her educational background would be, what the particular functions of the advocate might be etc. In other words, we have only a very sketchy idea of what an advocate might be.

The second point we have here is that when we set up a new profession, as we are under this bill, normally we give professional bodies the opportunity to discipline the members within their professions. In this case we are giving the profession, or the commission if you want to call it as the head of the advocates' profession, the opportunity to discipline its own members. However, there are going to be other relationships between the commission and the profession, the advocates, which are unusual.

In our health discipline professions there is usually an arm's-length distance in the employee-employer situation with regard to the disciplining function of the profession. In other words, the college of physicians does not hire the doctors; the ONA, the Ontario Nurses' Association, does not hire the nurses; they work for somebody else.

My concern with giving the discretion to the commission to strike the format of the discipline process is the fact that there is an employee-employer relationship between the commission and the advocates. For instance, could there be a situation where during negotiations, if there is a union with regard to the advocates, there is an opportunity in the collective bargaining process for them to bargain the discipline process? Will that enter into that kind of employee-employer relationship?

My view is that the legislation itself should set out what in fact the discipline process is and should set forward the major elements of that, rather than leaving that up to the employer and putting the employer, the commission, in the vulnerable position of having to negotiate a weaker and weaker discipline process for the advocates whom it controls under collective agreements in the future and in terms of dealing with the employee-employer relationship as they go through their experience in terms of these advocates.

Our amendment sets forth the exact opposite kind of balance that the commission is set up under—that is, that vulnerable people would be in a minority in the discipline process whereas they have a majority on the commission—and therefore the people who would be served by the advocates would serve in the majority in the discipline process and therefore the commission would be very attentive to what in fact the people who represent the clients in a different manner would demand of the process. I think

it's a mistake to leave it up to the commission to set its own discipline processes.

We have had these arguments with regard to other professions. They are the same arguments that are put forward with regard to lay representation on discipline committees within the various professions, but in this case I think it's very important for us to recognize that there's a lot of difference in this kind of setup, in that the commission and the advocates have the employee-employer relationship.

I think that if we leave it up to the commission we are only leaving the commission in a very vulnerable spot whereby grievances will be negotiated. It will become not what the advocate has done with regard to the vulnerable person; it will become an employee-employer kind of settlement rather than being very much concerned with the vulnerable person.

1750

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate on Bill 74?

Mrs Sullivan: We support this amendment and believe it's a singularly important one. We also believe that with the additional amendments that have been made with respect to a review process, this is a valuable amendment in terms of ensuring that the review process is open, fair, very clear and involves more than the commission itself in terms of the review or appeals from decisions or findings that have been made.

I think you will understand that throughout the process there was very considerable debate about the extent and the power and the nature of the role of advocates and substantial worry that most of the issues that were on the table were not being responded to because the decisions that would be made surrounding those issues would only be made through regulations in which and through which ordinary people wouldn't have a part.

We think this is an important amendment, we will be supporting it strongly, and I hope the government will accept it.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting these amendments. We believe the government's complaints review process, as introduced by the government, which has been discussed with various groups of people, our stakeholders and the various professional people, addresses the issues and the concerns that have been raised earlier.

The Second Deputy Chair: Further debate?

Mr Sterling: I'd like to ask the minister, what is the complaints review process? How does a person who complains about an advocate express his concern and gain redress?

Hon Ms Ziemba: The process set up by our amendments makes sure that there is a review process, and of course there's the commission. The commission is under review by the Ombudsman, as all commissions are, and we feel that those are the appropriate places that can certainly be addressed. The commission will make available to any person, on request, a written review procedure for dealing with any of the complaints relating to advocates.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I find that passing strange, particularly since I notice that my colleague attempted to have representatives on that committee on the previous session from the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics. You have complaints committees in every other area. Particularly, the police now are complaining about the amount of complaints commissions there are for them. Yet you're not prepared to allow for this. I'd like the minister's attention.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I am listening.

Mr Callahan: I wasn't sure. You weren't looking at me.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Believe it or not, I can hear without looking.

Mr Callahan: I'm sorry. I didn't think you were. I apologize if you were listening.

I can't understand how a New Democratic Party government which espouses fairness in all things could possibly object to the amendment being put forward. We're dealing here with people who are vulnerable, who possibly will get a bad deal. As a total matter of fairness, I would be very disappointed if the New Democratic government and all it stands for and espouses in terms of giving people, particularly vulnerable people, the right to complain, would not accede to that amendment. I will be very disappointed, Madam Minister.

Mr Jim Wilson: Just to comment on this very important amendment, I recall, as Health critic last summer, we spent the entire summer here at Queen's Park dealing with the Regulated Health Professions Act. We took particular care, in drafting and in discussing those acts which regulate highly trained health care professionals, to ensure that disciplinary processes were in place, set in the legislation, and that this Legislature, on behalf of the people of Ontario, ensured that disciplinary procedures were in place.

The government is setting a very dangerous precedent here in Bill 74 in terms of allowing the employer to set discipline for the employee and not giving the public any redress whatsoever or any complaints review committee outside of that employer-employee relationship.

What would happen, and I'd like an answer from the minister, if the employees decide that the commission is being too tough in its disciplinary actions with whatever disciplinary review procedure the commission may set up?

A hypothetical situation: If I were an advocate, an employee of that commission, in my collective bargaining I would bargain away the powers of that disciplinary body if I could. Over years that could very well happen.

You are in this legislation giving advocates unprecedented rights of entry, rights of entry into people's private homes. You are giving advocates unprecedented rights in this province; unprecedented rights to access records, medical records and records regarding facilities. Yet you won't accept this amendment which ensures the public good, which ensures that all people who may have their rights violated by the advocates—and that's quite conceivable—have an independent outside review committee to address those complaints.

You've got a clear conflict of interest here, I think, and I'd like a response from the minister.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I don't agree that we have a conflict of interest and I think some of the analogies that have been made previously about advocates being similar to doctors or other professionals—they're not a profession, they do not have the same type of parameters. I think what we are doing in our bill addresses all of those issues.

Mrs Sullivan: I am urging the minister to reconsider her intransigence on this particular section and support the amendment proposed by the third party. In fact, there is no review process in this bill. There are a few words saying there will be a review process. There's no guarantee of a meeting, there's no indication of what kind of a review process there will be.

In fact, the review process may mean that somebody at the commission—because the commission members themselves aren't required to participate in any review—in fact, perhaps even the person associated with the complaint can write back to the person who complained, if the complaint was made by letter, and say: "Thank you very much. I appreciate hearing from you on this matter. We do not believe there is any issue to which you have redress or that there has been any problem or any fault on the behalf of our advocates."

There is no method to review the activities and the functions of the commission itself. The commission has powers to grant agreement and to provide additional powers to other people, advocates, to do systemic advocacy, which gives those people extraordinary other powers: rights of entry, access to records, investigatory powers no one outside of the police force has.

There's no guarantee of a hearing; there is no guarantee of fairness; there is no guarantee when you're setting up almost on trust, which is what the minister is doing, a review process, that there is anything at all to that review process.

The minister says it will be handled in the regulations. Once again, the regulations are not made in association with people who may have a complaint. We don't know how this is going to work. Let's have a review committee that is statutory, where there is an obligation on issues that have to be considered, which has specific functions, which has a certain method of proceeding and which in fact will ensure that those who want to make a complaint will be heard in a way that is appropriate.

The Second Deputy Chair: Is there likely to be considerably more debate on this? The honourable member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: If the minister would agree to retain the power herself—the minister—to set up the discipline committee of the commission by order in council, I will withdraw my amendment with these specific suggestions. My concern is that she is giving it to the commission. It's like putting the fox in charge of the hen house, if you want to draw a kind of conclusion that one might. I think she's putting the commission in a very, very difficult spot by giving it the right to set down its own disciplinary procedures.

Since it's past 6 of the clock, I will complete my remarks at a later date.

The Second Deputy Chair: We shall continue amendments and the process with Bill 74.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the committee rise and report progress? Agreed? Agreed.

The committee of the whole House begs to report progress and asks for leave to sit again.

Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed? Agreed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): Pursuant to standing order 55, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, November 30, we will consider a motion to extend the hours of meeting for the last eight sessional days, commencing on that day. Following that motion, we will continue the adjourned second reading debate on Bill 94, Metro Toronto's tax assessment. Following that, we will begin debate on concurrence in supply.

On Tuesday, December 1, we will continue with the committee of the whole consideration of the advocacy package, Bills 74, 108, 109 and 110. After the vote on the advocacy package at 5:45, we will begin second reading debate on OTAB, Bill 96.

On Wednesday, December 2, we will continue second reading of OTAB. Following that, we will begin second reading debate on long-term care, Bill 101.

On Thursday, December 3, during private members' public business, we will consider ballot item number 35, a resolution standing in the name of Mr Conway, and ballot item number 36, second reading of Bill 89, standing in the name of Mr Tilson.

On December 3 in the afternoon, we will begin second reading debate of pay equity, Bill 102, and public service amendments, Bill 169.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Thank you very much. It now being past 6 of the clock, this House will stand adjourned until Monday, November 30, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1804.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. George-St. David | Vacant | | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Sarnia | Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Larry O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Bob Huget
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, W. Leo Jordan,
Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer,
David Turnbull, Daniel Waters, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathyssen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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Monday 30 November 1992

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Lundi 30 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 30 November 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I have a message from the Administrator of the government. The Administrator of the government transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending 31 March 1993 and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

REPORT ON RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): The report of the Race Relations and Policing Task Force was released five weeks late.

The task force members made it clear that the training initiatives of this government over the last two years have been practically non-existent. They were just a few words short of saying that the Solicitor General is totally incompetent.

They further state that some members of the ministry have yet to come to grips with the reality of proper policing. This also applies to certain ranks within the police.

This report was delayed for five weeks, as I said before, and I am convinced that it was intercepted, hence the delay in presenting the findings and recommendations of the task force.

It is my belief that Piper, the spin doctor, was at work here. To instruct an independent task force to delay publishing its findings is consistent with the government's manipulative behaviour with respect to other independent groups and agencies. An example, Mr Speaker, as you know, is the Ontario Municipal Board.

Furthermore, it is apparent that it was a deliberate ploy to delay the report, given the current climate that the government has created with respect to the police.

I commend the task force for advancing the cause of employment equity, emphasizing that it will not await the government's Employment Equity Act. As you know, Mr Speaker, they have delayed employment equity for another year, therefore 1997 before the first phase could be brought before the tribunal.

It is apparent that they have repeated many of the findings indicated in the Stephen Lewis report. Unless the government is committed to implementing these recommendations without delay, it will become another relic on the shelf. As you know, Mr Speaker, that's how they react to reports in this House.

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement concerns the excessive service fees charged under the Environmental Protection Act and the Conservation Authori-

ties Act that will virtually slow down or put an end to development in the province of Ontario.

Under the Environmental Protection Act, boards of health are collecting \$75 per lot for new lots created by severance, plan of subdivision or condominium. Under the Conservation Authorities Act, developers are charged \$50 per lot per subdivision, to a maximum of \$5,000 for reviewing subdivisions; \$25 per unit per condominium for review of condominiums; \$250 per development for review of industrial, commercial and institutional developments; \$100 per application for fill, construction and alterations to waterways regulations; \$30 for solicitors' inquiries and inquiries from real estate companies, consulting firms and development companies; and if a site inspection is required, an additional fee of \$70 will be charged.

This government continues to find new sources to tax the people of Ontario, and these excessive service charges are sad examples of this ongoing policy. Charging excessive service fees will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment by putting an end to development in the province of Ontario.

I didn't realize all these service charges were in place until John Copeland of Elmvale came to my office and indicated what this government is doing to his business.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): On the past weekend I had the opportunity of participating in two 50th anniversaries. The first 50th anniversary was dealing with an organization in the town of Wallaceburg, that is, United Auto Workers 251. The trade union was established on December 7, 1942. It currently has 22 units which represent 2,000 members in that local union and it covers a wide variety of sectors of workers and the workplaces around there. One of the very important things to see is the foundation that the trade union has created in the town of Wallaceburg and its support through United Way and others.

The other 50th anniversary that I participated in was Mr and Mrs Chandler's 50th wedding anniversary in Chatham township in the town of Wallaceburg. Seeing the 50th anniversary was a signal to the community of what can be accomplished in 50 years of marriage. As we witness today the divorce rates and the abuse that's out there in our communities, to see two fine people stand and renew their vows in holy matrimony for one more time after 50 years was a dedication for myself and my wife to be there to witness this.

It made me reflect on how important it is for unity: unity of a labour movement, unity of a family, caring about the communities they live in. I think what it will do is send an important message to the rest of society: We must stop and think. No legislation will ever produce love.

1340

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): School boards and hospitals in the Kenora riding expressed disbelief and shock over the Treasurer's announcement on what they see as a freeze on transfer payments.

Over the past months they have been preparing their 1993-94 operating budgets on the basis of the commitment made by this government in January. They avoided the slash-and-burn approach to budget management the NDP government is now employing. Boards of education throughout the north have stated that they are extremely concerned that this government's funding freeze will jeopardize the high standards of education they now offer.

Mr Treasurer, in an area where the costs of hydro will be increasing by 9%, where the cost of shipping materials in can be as high as 30% of the price, where bus lines are asked to pay as much as 11 cents more for a litre of gasoline, northern boards are predicting that along with equalization of assessment, unorganized territories throughout the north may be looking at as much as 14% to 15% increase in their education taxes next year.

Hospital boards have said that the freeze will affect their plans to upgrade equipment and force it to re-evaluate their levels of service.

Take, for example, what this has done to the Lake of the Woods District Hospital. For them the so-called one-time funding will amount to about half of 1%. This translates into about \$75,000 on a \$23-million budget. This won't even cover the costs of the increase in the employer's contribution to the OHA pension plan or the increase in WCB costs.

Mr Treasurer, these boards have understood the recession and undertook responsible budget management. Why can't you?

MARK NIMZ

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I rise to commemorate and extol the heroism of Mark Nimz of Burlington.

On Thursday, November 26, a man dressed in army fatigues entered a Burlington roadhouse restaurant and forced six of the people present into a rear office area and began robbing the premises. As the man held a gun to the head of the owner, Mark Nimz, a father of two, bravely confronted him. The bandit quickly turned and fatally shot Mark point-blank in the chest and continued to rob the bar while Mark lay bleeding to death on the floor. Police arrived moments later but the murderer had fled on foot and he remains at large.

As Mark's mother, Lisa, said, "Mark was the type of person who would come to anyone's aid." In the words of Mark's friends who left him at the bar 10 minutes before the shooting, "He stood up for something he believed in and paid the ultimate price." My brothers, who went to school with Mark, also knew him as the courageous and warm-hearted individual that he was.

At this time of sadness and sorrow, I should like to extend, on behalf of all members of the House, our sincere

condolences to Mark's family and his close friends. May it compel us who are legislators to ensure the best possible protection against crime for the communities we represent and serve.

Today we celebrate the life of Mark Nimz, inspired as it was by the text for the funeral service of heroes: "Another commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. No man has greater love than this, that he give his life for his friends."

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): I rise today to draw attention to the fact that tomorrow is World AIDS Day.

Since 1988, December 1 has been set aside each year to increase public awareness about HIV and AIDS and to strengthen our commitment to combating this epidemic. In just over a decade more than 10 million people, 3.5 million of them women, have been infected with HIV worldwide. At least half a million have developed AIDS. By the year 2000, 30 to 40 million people worldwide are likely to be infected with HIV. That amounts to a staggering 5,000 new cases of HIV infection every day. Anyone can contract this deadly disease.

This year the World Health Organization has chosen "A Community Commitment" as the theme for World AIDS Day, stressing the need for community action in response to HIV infection and AIDS.

Today many members in this House are wearing red ribbons in support of a local campaign organized by the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research and the Fife House Foundation. Since Friday, hundreds of volunteers have been selling these ribbons to raise funds for AIDS research and for supportive housing for persons living with AIDS.

I took some time last Friday to sell ribbons in my riding of Fort York and I was heartened by the positive response of the public. Local community-based initiatives such as this campaign are at the forefront of the struggle against HIV and AIDS. By becoming involved at the local level, we are all partners in the global action against this devastating disease.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I bring to the floor of the House today three questions that the women of this province are asking of this government.

When will you reassign at least 10,000 of the spaces targeted for the Jobs Ontario program that we all know is stagnating to the broader child care community, and thus serve real needs of real women and real children in this province?

Another question is the pay equity announcement of last Thursday: another broken promise to women of this province, in this case vulnerable women, women who have been among those consistently underpaid for decades. The announcement means, in their estimation, that their real needs are being put on hold, indeed tossed into the future. The new date of 1998 is being thrown out as a crumb, a

sliver of hope. How can these women really believe this government?

Child care reform, another NDP priority, by all weights and standards, is being postponed into the new year. Will it ever really happen?

In each of these three issues, issues that used to be considered NDP priorities, we are hearing more and more about nickel-and-diming on the backs of the vulnerable. Conditional dollars; announced dollars; targeted dollars. These words ring hollow. They are leaving many, many women in this province disillusioned, angry and feeling used.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's time has expired.

ENTERTAINMENT TAX

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): Grey Cup fans from across the country travelled to Toronto over the weekend to watch the Calgary Stampeders and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers square off at the SkyDome. As a football fan and as a frustrated Toronto Argonauts fan, I was there with about 45,000 people to watch Doug Flutie and the Calgary Stampeders win the Grey Cup.

According to Grey Cup organizers, the Grey Cup contributed about \$40 million to the Metro Toronto economy. More than 20,000 people visited Toronto, staying in its hotels, eating in its restaurants, visiting its stores and enjoying its taverns. The Grey Cup is a vital economic boost to tourism in Metro.

The bad news is that this government, through its taxation policies, is unnecessarily burdening the CFL teams in Ontario. According to Al Strachan, a columnist with the *Globe and Mail*, Ontario is the only province that gouges its three CFL teams by imposing entertainment taxes.

The economic spinoffs that Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa receive from their CFL teams should not be discounted by this government. Instead of creating an environment in which these teams might thrive, the government imposes burdensome taxes.

The CFL, as most sports fans know, is struggling for its very survival. As a Canadian football fan, I fear losing a brand of football unique to this country.

It is about time that the NDP government recognizes the positive economic benefits that the CFL teams and other professional sports franchises bring to this province and trash this tax.

COAT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Oxford County Board of Education, Loeb Club Plus, area service clubs and the ministerial association for sponsoring and supporting the annual Coats for Kids program.

Established in 1989 in Oxford county, the campaign originally supplied coats for 500 children. This year that figure is expected to more than double, thanks to the public's generosity and the efforts of countless volunteers.

In these tough economic times, more and more people cannot afford to buy their children new winter clothes. This program means that children will not have to suffer

through the winter months in spring jackets and running shoes.

The groups involved in this effort have collected new and used coats, gloves, mittens, boots and hats. The clothes range in size from infant to adult. Many of the items appear to be new, purchased by caring individuals to donate to the Coats for Kids campaign.

Local business people further contribute their time and effort to this worthy cause as well. Local dry cleaners ensured that all the coats were cleaned, charging only a nominal fee. Volunteers then distribute the coats to various distribution centres.

I want to make special mention of the Coats for Kids campaign in the town of Ingersoll. Most distribution centres in Oxford county wrap up their efforts at the end of November, but the Ingersoll drive has been extended to mid-December to ensure that every child has the chance to be prepared for the winter months.

With the holiday season fast approaching, most of us are thinking about sharing our good fortune and good times with family and friends, but I'm especially pleased to see that the spirit of caring and sharing exists in Oxford all year round.

1350

ORAL QUESTIONS

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): With my first question today, I want to focus on this government's absolutely breathtaking inability to manage either Ontario's economy or its finances.

On Friday, Dofasco announced that it's laying off 2,000 workers. Today, Falconbridge said it is reducing its Sudbury workforce by 200. These workers will add to the 550,000 Ontarians already on the unemployment lines, and many others work day to day, uncertain whether or not their plant will be the next to close.

The Premier has blamed the global recession, or he blames Ottawa, or he even blames Ontario's business people for not being sufficiently competitive. He absolutely refuses to understand what his government is doing to make it impossible for Ontario business to compete. I would ask the Premier, why do you keep blaming the federal government when the real problem here is your absolute refusal to understand what your government is doing to make things work and what it could do to make things better?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member has raised two issues, two industries in particular, two examples, to ask me the question. Let me say to her with respect to Falconbridge that it just so happens that I met with the president of Falconbridge when I was in Tokyo. I want to tell the honourable member directly what he told me. The fact of the matter is, she asked questions with respect to a particular industry. Here is an industry whose products are traded on the world market. Here is an industry where prices are affected directly by the supply. Here is an industry where supply is directly affected by political events in Eastern

Europe and in the former Soviet Union, where in fact there's evidence that substantial amounts of minerals are now being dumped on the world market.

I say to the honourable member, I think she's really got to get with it. Understand for a moment the extent to which—

Interjection: These are global problems?

Hon Mr Rae: Yes, these are global problems. Also, I would say to her that it's not a matter of blaming the federal government, pure and simple. It's a matter of recognizing that at a time of unprecedented industrial change, the leadership that's been shown by the federal government has been sadly lacking. I would have thought the honourable member would be the first to agree with that, since the evidence of that is simply overwhelming. Those are the facts, and that's what's led us to take the decisions that we have.

Mrs McLeod: Perhaps in the supplementary response the Premier might explain to us why he had to go to Tokyo to meet with the president of Falconbridge.

I would suggest to the Premier that the failure of Ontario's economy—and it is a failure of Ontario's economy—is very directly related to the problems that the Treasurer is having with his budget. Premier, the Treasurer says that the people of this province are going to face more tax hikes in order to keep the government's deficit target. We can already point out, and have pointed out in the past, tax policies that have taken \$1 billion out of the economy and directly cost 25,000 jobs.

In October, just a month ago, the Treasurer said the tax revenues were \$500 million less than planned, and now, just one month later, we discover that Ontario's revenues are \$4.5 billion less than planned. Meanwhile, the government is trying to spend millions of dollars buying out private day care operators and the Workers' Compensation Board is wasting money on a new downtown office tower.

Premier, I would ask, before you even breathe the words "tax hike," don't you think you should get your own fiscal house in order?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say to the honourable member, this from a member of a Liberal cabinet and a Liberal government that raised taxes 41 times while they were in office, 41 times.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I don't recall the honourable member resigning from cabinet on a matter of principle, saying that this was so terrible, that she objected so strongly to what the Treasurer was doing, that they weren't going to deal with it.

The Liberal opposition is carrying on in a way which has got to be exposed for what it is. It's the way in which she says, "Don't raise taxes, don't cut expenditures and bring your deficit down." To describe it as voodoo economics would be to pay it a tribute it does not deserve.

The Liberal Party is incapable of understanding, because it does not want to recognize that we are now reaping the whirlwind it sowed when it was in office for those five years. We are having to make, as a government, very

difficult decisions dealing with situations which the Liberal Party and the Liberal government were never capable of resolving, never wanted to address and never had the courage to deal with. We're dealing with them, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Mrs McLeod: I really wish that the Premier, rather than simply coming back to his descriptions of voodoo economics, would get out there and talk to the Ontario businessmen he was so critical of when he was speaking to the Hong Kong chamber of commerce. I wish he would talk to those Ontario businessmen about voodoo economics. They will tell him that when the Treasurer talks about tax hikes, that makes the possibility of investment in this province an even more remote possibility. They will tell him that any new taxes now are going to cost even more lost investment and more lost jobs. New taxes are likely to put more people out of business and more people out of work. That's the message Ontario business would want to send to this Premier. That's the way they would dismiss his description of voodoo economics.

I would also suggest to the Premier that since his government's numbers change daily, and with every change in numbers there is the threat of yet another new tax hike, that does nothing to restore confidence in business people looking to invest in the province of Ontario.

If you can't figure out how to get the economy going, could you at least tell the people of this province the truth about the budget figures? Would you please come clean with the people of Ontario about the state of this economy and about the kind of tax hikes you may be planning for them?

Hon Mr Rae: The Treasurer gave a very full report to the House on Thursday indicating very clearly exactly where we are and indicating why certain decisions with respect to transfers and other things had to be made. I think that evidence is very clear.

I want to say to the honourable member that I meet regularly, frequently and constantly with the business community, and one of the things they constantly say to me is: "Premier, we realize that this is not all of your fault. We realize that what you are having to deal with are several problems which have been left to you by other governments."

In their moments even when they're critical of some of the things we have done, I can assure the honourable member, and I want to tell her this now, if she thinks the chamber of commerce and others are saying, "Please, just do what Bob Nixon did, just do what David Peterson did, and everything will be okay," I haven't met a soul out there telling me that. I think the Liberal leader ought to recognize that.

JOHN PIPER

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier, and it's about the Piper incident. I'd like to get a firm commitment from the Premier of what is going to take place after the police investigation.

We in the opposition, Premier, don't feel that this was an isolated incident by Mr Piper, nor do we feel that he acted on his own. Ultimately, Premier, you're responsible.

You knew exactly whom you were recruiting when you brought Mr Piper in as your deputy minister. Mr Piper is known as a tough, hard-nosed, aggressive political fighter. He's known as someone who fixes political problems. That's why you went out and recruited this person you've known, I think, for 20 years, knowing exactly what you were recruiting. That's why we are suspicious, Premier, that this was not an isolated instance.

We want a commitment from you, Premier, that once the police investigation is over you will permit a full hearing of this, an all-party legislative committee so that we can get to the bottom of all the activities that were going on in your office around what we would call dirty tricks.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I would say to the honourable member that I would urge him not to prejudge anything or anyone with respect to what has taken place. I would suggest strongly to the honourable member that we would all be well advised to wait for the outcome of the police investigation.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Phillips: Premier, you didn't listen to my question. I said once the police investigation is over, we want a commitment from you about an all-party legislative committee.

I will say to you, Premier, that you had early warning of exactly the kinds of problems you would face. It was only a few days after the election that you personally called Mr Piper. You asked Mr Piper to be your personal consultant on the Olympic bid. You sent him to Tokyo on taxpayers' expense. Then when Mr Piper got to Tokyo, he systematically proceeded, I understand—and you can correct me if I'm wrong here—to attempt to undermine our Olympic bid. He was your consultant, recruited by you, paid for by you, I assume reported back to you, and if the things I understand he did in Tokyo he didn't, I will stand corrected; but I understand, Premier, that it was he who insisted that the Bread Not Circuses people be allowed to demonstrate in front of the IOC. He did a lot to undermine our committee's bid.

1400

My question to you is this, Premier: If you knew that was the sort of activity Mr Piper would engage in, why did you personally go out and recruit him to be your deputy minister in your office, with all of the clout that that entails?

Hon Mr Rae: I was just chatting with the Treasurer and listening to the Treasurer's advice to me. I would remind you that I asked the former Premier to go on behalf of the province and he refused; he declined to go. He said he wouldn't go. I then asked the member for Nickel Belt to go and I am advised by the member for Nickel Belt that Mr Piper was in fact very helpful in Tokyo. I want to say to the honourable member that he can engage in this kind of activity if he wants; I'm not going to dignify it with a further response.

Mr Phillips: It was you, Premier, who recruited this individual whom you've known for 20 years; a well

known, very tough, very aggressive individual. You brought him in. You made him your deputy. You gave him all the clout that this entailed. I will tell you that my understanding of his activities in Tokyo is that he did much to undermine our bid.

You can understand, Premier, why we are frankly very distrustful of what has gone on in your office, and Mr Piper only added to that. After he was caught at this, he said, "Frankly, I've done nothing wrong." This is your deputy. This is the person whom you've known for 20 years. He said, "I've done nothing wrong, other than embarrass you." I hope you can understand now why we on the opposition want to get to the bottom of this.

We understand the police investigation. If nothing can take place till that's done, so be it. But we want your commitment, Premier, based on what we now know about Mr Piper, that once that police investigation is complete, we on the opposition side will have a full chance to find out how many other things were going on, undetected, unknown to the opposition, that will only come out if we have a full, all-party legislative committee able to look fully at this matter.

Hon Mr Rae: I will stand by my answer that I've already given to the honourable member and stand by it very directly, and I will just say that I'm very disappointed in the kind of attitude that's being taken by the honourable member.

The Speaker: New question, the leader of the third party.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The leader of the third party has the floor.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Over two years ago, you, David Peterson and I were travelling around this province fighting an election. You and I both knew at that time that the province was going headlong into a recession. In fact, that's the reason why the election was called early; I think everybody would acknowledge that now. David Peterson didn't seem to know that we were going into a recession or he didn't want to talk about it but, Premier, you and I did because we had talked about that in the session before the election was called that spring.

But, Premier, even though you knew that, you chose to ignore that in the campaign. You laughed when I travelled this province and wouldn't make any new promises, when I said, "In fact, we can't even afford the spending that we have," that had been run up by five years of irresponsible Liberal government. But you laughed, Premier, and you said, "No, we can, and we can afford a billion dollars more in the Agenda for People." That's what you told them.

Then you and your Treasurer, Premier, brought in your first budget. You hiked spending close to 13% at a time when the rest of the country was going into the dumper, including Ontario. At a time when other treasurers and other premiers were practising restraint, at a time when

wage restraint was being brought in in the public sector, you decided to carry on the same way of David Peterson.

Premier, my question to you today is, why do you and your Treasurer point the finger to other governments, to Ottawa, to former governments, to this recession that you didn't know was coming, to the world? Why would you not acknowledge you were wrong, apologize to my candidates who campaigned in the last election for misleading statements you made during the campaign? But, more importantly, why wouldn't you apologize to the people of this province and say, "We're sorry; we were wrong, we massively overspent, and now we all have to pay the price, but it is my fault, Bob Rae's fault, my fault"?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the leader complete his question, please.

Mr Harris: Why would you not acknowledge that today?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I must confess, when I listen to the honourable member, that I say to him very directly that the issue of the recession is difficult enough as it is without turning it into the kind of rhetorical circus which he has done.

In response to the recession as it was unfolding, yes, we did put \$700 million in capital spending into the budget in the first year. We did take that action precisely because we recognized how serious the situation has been, and we've continued to take it. So we're now investing more; we've got \$4.5 billion in capital spending and in training money that's in the economy now, this year, the highest amount ever by the province, and we're proud of that. We have no hesitation in saying that.

At the same time, we've demonstrated consistently the need for restraint in terms of transfers, yes, and a restraint in terms of wage settlements, and we've got the wage settlements down without having to engage in the kind of confrontation, the kind of poor feeling that exists in other jurisdictions. We've now got a very responsible policy which is understood and embraced by all concerned. That's the direction that we're going in and that's the direction that we're taking.

I want to say to the honourable member that, given the circumstances, given the very tough situation that we face, and yes, given the neglect, the systematic neglect of this province by the federal government with respect to its overall economic responsibilities, I think we can say to the people of the province that we are trying as best we can to respond to a difficult and tough situation—

The Speaker: Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: —and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Mr Harris: Premier, you can blame the feds. You can blame others. You can blame your predecessors, and there is some validity in blaming some of your predecessors; I understand that. But the fact of the matter is and the bottom line is that you made the wrong choices 18 months ago when you came into office and you brought in your first budget.

You made the wrong choices, and you have nobody to blame but yourself for those choices.

I think you will recall one of the things that I had said at that time. I said when you brought in the first budget: "This budget will have implications for many years to come. It will be remembered as the beginning of the province's slide into a devastating spiral of increasing taxes and decreasing economic activity." That was April 29 I said that here in this very place in 1991. But you laughed at me. Your Treasurer laughed at me. You said: "No, we are going to spend our way out of this recession. We know something no other politician in Canada or in North America and the world knows": that these massive increases, a wage package to the public service up 16% year over year in total wages—

The Speaker: Will the leader place his supplementary, please.

Mr Harris: I would ask you again: Would you not now acknowledge that you, in your first budget when you went on this \$53-billion spending spree, are a significant part of the problem that you and your Treasurer and your government face today?

Hon Mr Rae: I want to say very directly to the honourable member that if you look at the record of the Treasurer in terms of trying to respond to a very, very difficult situation—and it's so ironic, because the member now talks about his policies and what he said. You know, there isn't an instance we can point to, an instance in question period in the last couple of months, when the questions haven't been coming from all the members of his back bench, saying: "Spend more money. Spend more money. Spend more money." That'll be one day. Then the next day it'll be "No taxes," and the next day it'll be "What's wrong with your deficit?"

So I want to say very directly to members of the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party, who no doubt will carry on with this chatter for some time, that the people of the province of Ontario deserve straight goods from everybody. They're getting straight goods from the New Democratic Party government, they're getting straight goods from the Treasurer of Ontario, and they're getting a pile of baloney from the official opposition and from the third party. Those are the facts.

1410

Mr Harris: Mr Premier, you lost the fight against the recession. That was the fight you picked. You told us you were going to fight the recession and you lost it. You've lost the fight against the deficit. That was the one you tried to run away from but you lost it too. Now, with 500 job losses a day, you've lost the fight for jobs. Enough is enough.

You limited the transfer partners for last year and into this year to 2%: hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, municipalities. I supported that restraint. You will recall I said I wished you'd done it a year ago when I called for it. I supported that. But I also called on you to live within the same restraints. In the same budget last year you hiked your own spending two and a half to three times that—4.6%, I believe—including the transfer payments, which

means your own spending was up probably three times that amount: three and a half times the rate of inflation.

You've limited your transfer partners to 2%, and in fact they're going to have to spend less than that because the following year it's minus 2%. I would ask you today, will you commit today to limiting your own spending to 2% and minus 2%, as you've said hospitals can do, as you've said school boards can do, as you've said municipalities can do? Will you, today, limit your own spending and commit that next year and the following year it will be 2% and minus 2% so you could show the same kind of restraint you're telling others they should do?

Hon Mr Rae: When you look at the facts, when you take out public debt interest which we're running up on behalf of all the transfer agencies which don't have a debt, when you take out social assistance costs which are a statutory entitlement, a legal entitlement that people have, our funding has gone up 0.3% in terms of expenditures, the lowest level of increase. So I don't need to take any lectures from a Tory about how to exercise restraint with respect to public expenditure.

The critical question, though, is to do it in a way that continues to demonstrate our commitment to jobs and to job creation, which is what we're doing.

EDUCATION REFORM

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, we're going to be talking about straight goods right now. Everybody wants the straight goods. We heard you on the CBC about a week ago talking about The Transition Years pilot projects. You stated that these pilot projects have been available since last summer, which really confused me.

You intrigued the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation at the same time, because at its conference over a week ago it talked about using the freedom of information act to get information on these pilot projects. So we called your office, Mr Minister, and there are over 64 of them. We were told that there is a bound copy. However, we were also told there has been no in-depth analysis of these projects. Will you give us the straight goods right now and tell us whether in fact we do have an analysis of these pilot projects and when they'll be available for everybody in this House?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I was referring, I think, in the comment the member referred to, to some information which I understand has been available in 12 school boards for some time—I think back to last spring—and which I'm told is there, which is a description of some of the findings of the pilot projects of the first year's experience. I know I've had on my desk for some time a document which I believe is a public document, which outlines in a descriptive format some of these pilot projects. I think that information is available to anyone who wants it.

Mrs Cunningham: I'll just tell the minister what his office told us. I can't get a copy of the analysis of these pilot projects. You have a bound copy, which is simply that each board that had a pilot project made a report. It's all

put in a bound copy. I mean, anybody can do that. We want to know what's working and what is not working in Ontario. Now, at the same time, Mr Minister, a week ago Friday evening the OSSTF got a copy of The Transition Years. The appropriate document I think was sent to the OSSTF at its conference.

At the same time, the Ontario Teachers' Federation didn't receive one. The Ontario Public School Trustees' Association, the school boards, didn't receive one. They got theirs on Monday. What is your process for communicating? You think you've got the document, your staff tell us it's not available and then you send something else out on The Transition Years to a conference. The rest of us wait until Monday. What is your process for communicating?

Hon Mr Silipo: I know the member would very much like to make an issue out of this process question, but let me just tell her very clearly that the information that was sent out to the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation was indeed the exact same information that was sent out to everyone, including the OTF, on Monday, and the reason it was sent to the OSSTF on Friday was because it was ready then and because they were in the middle of the discussions, so we felt it was pertinent, therefore, for them to have this information right away.

That's really the long and the short of it. The information normally goes out to everyone, as it did in this case. As I say, it was simply because OSSTF was having a discussion and a conference around this issue that we thought it was useful to send that information to them at that time.

Mrs Cunningham: If information is ready on Friday, I think I should have it. I think every member of this House should have it. I think school boards and teachers' federations should have it on Friday, not on Monday.

My supplementary question to the minister has to do with the transfer payments last week, with the frozen base and the lump sum, which is approximately 2%. In the announcement there is some confusion. It says that boards will have to negotiate for the 2%, and it mentions three criteria. It mentions cost of restructuring:

"The government's overall priorities for restructuring are (1) to reduce the cost of public services"—obviously that's going to happen—" (2) to maintain public services"—how you reduce the costs and maintain them will be wonderful, but perhaps some boards can do that—" (3) to preserve jobs to the greatest extent possible."

These are criteria for getting 2%. I would say after my other question around transition years and restructuring the curriculum, surely we're going to be looking at curriculum changes, but it wasn't mentioned. My question to the minister is this: Is it a fact that these are the criteria and that all school boards will not get 2% next year? Is that the fact? If it is, I hope you make it very clear to the school boards, because that's what they are expecting, 2%.

Hon Mr Silipo: When I met on Thursday afternoon, before the Treasurer's announcement, with the representatives from the various school boards, teachers' federations and other groups to go over with them the nature of the announcement the Treasurer was making, I also indicated

to them that I was very interested in pursuing discussions directly with them about the way in which they best felt we should allocate the 2%, one-time-only funding. I've committed myself to discussing that with them.

I'm going to be inviting people to come back together before Christmas to hear their suggestions, and I've said to them that before we make decisions about how to finally determine the best use of the 2%, which is about \$99 million in our case, I will want to hear from them on that. I've also committed myself to getting the main components of the general legislative grant out towards the end of January, along with the decision around the use of the 2%, so that school boards would have that information available to them as they structure their budgets.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): Last Thursday, we heard information from the Treasurer which was tantamount to the big lie. He said there would be a 2% transfer to hospitals on a one-time-only basis, not added to the base.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Just a minute. Before people get all excited, I realize it isn't the most helpful way to phrase something, but there was not an accusation of anyone lying. Could the member direct her question, and to which minister?

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Speaker, my question is to the Treasurer. The truth is that the operating transfers to hospitals are frozen until 1995 and that special funding arrangements that he's included are in fact designed so there will be no cash flow in the next year. The truth is that thousands of dollars which were spent in preparing full operating plans, which were to be on the desk of the Minister of Health today, have been wasted.

There are three implications to that announcement: service cuts, job cuts or deficits. In many areas of this province, people will be put at risk directly as a result of that announcement. I'm asking the Treasurer, will he fund the deficits of hospitals when communities are placed at risk because hospitals cannot provide the health services that they are by law required to provide?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I won't reply in kind to the member and imply that she's a liar, or any such thing.

The member should know, if she doesn't, that the transfer to hospitals this year, the year we're in now, included a transitional fund which was to help the hospital sector restructure and deliver its services in a more efficient way with a minimum loss of jobs.

That has been accomplished to a remarkable degree, and an enormous amount of credit must go to the Minister of Health and the health care sector workers, because I can tell you that after a decade of double-digit increases, this government was able to sit down with our transfer partners in the health care sector, including the hospitals, and work out a deal in which we put a stop to that. The increase in the cost of funding hospitals has now been brought under control.

For 1993-94, what we have done is to allow a 2% fund again, another 2%, and the Minister of Health, in her inimitable fashion, will be working with the hospitals to determine to what extent any given hospital will receive a part of the equivalent of 2%. So I think for the member to imply that we haven't worked extremely hard to minimize job losses is simply not to understand what we've been doing at all.

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Mrs Sullivan: The Treasurer doth protest too much. He has not provided a 2% operating transfer. He has not come even close to providing a 2% operating transfer. He has frozen operating transfers.

Three quarters of hospital costs are staff-based. Within days, arbitrated settlements for CUPE and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union are expected. An arbitrated settlement will be coming forward in March for members of the Ontario Nurses' Association. The Service Employees International Union settlement, which has just been made within the past couple of weeks, adds a \$12-million additional cost to the hospital sector.

We know that each 1% increase in unsettled collective agreements above a 2% CPI assumption will increase hospital costs by \$53 million. Treasurer, what advice will you give to hospitals that have to work with settlements over which they have no control and which affect the costs associated with over 70% of their staff?

Hon Mr Laughren: My advice to the hospitals would be the same as it was this year: to sit down with the Minister of Health and to work out an arrangement in which job losses can be minimized, essential services will be maintained and costs can be reduced, in view of the new reality out there of how much money we've got to transfer to all our transfer partners.

I would remind you, Mr Speaker, to you directly, that this past year there were people who threw up their hands and predicted that there'd be 14,000 job losses in the hospital sector as a result of a 2% increase in transfer funding. As a matter of fact, when all of the dust settles, I believe there will be between 600 and 700 job losses. To me, that was a major accomplishment, and once again I pay tribute to the Minister of Health and to the hospital sector for accomplishing that. I believe it was truly remarkable.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Premier, last December your Minister of Northern Development attempted to smear a doctor, an outspoken critic of the government. She admitted she had lied and took a polygraph test to prove it. Mr Premier, could you tell me who in your government, in your cabinet, made the decision to allow Miss Martel to remain in cabinet following that incident?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I think that issue was debated over a year ago, and I think the member knows full well that full discussion took place in this House and a very full discussion took place following the adjournment of the House in

committee. I think the member knows that full well. That was over a year ago.

Mr Harris: You're right. It was a year ago, Premier, and you're right: I certainly did suspect it was you who made that decision.

In the last few days I've been in Sault Ste Marie, I've been in Sudbury, I've been in Timmins, I've been in North Bay and I've been in Toronto. Everybody who is talking about the John Piper affair—and they all are—is saying: "What's happening down there? What's going on? We can't believe it."

When they talk about the John Piper affair, virtually everyone I talk to all across this province, in small towns and big cities, is telling me the same thing: that had you as Premier fired Shelley Martel, if you had clearly said, through that firing, that smearing the reputation of a political opponent is not acceptable, then John Piper would not have thought it okay to smear Judi Harris's reputation.

Mr Premier, they are all saying that, and I would ask you this: Do you not realize that your inaction on Miss Martel is in fact what places you personally to blame, you personally responsible for the actions of Mr Piper, because you set the example with Miss Martel a year ago today? I would ask you this, Premier: Will you today rectify this problem?

Will you rectify this duplicity of standards? I think we would acknowledge Mr Piper is not a stupid person. Your cabinet and your parliamentary assistants, your Treasurer tells me, are not stupid people, but they do not understand, because of the duplicity of standards, where the line should be drawn. I would ask you if you would correct that today by asking Miss Martel to step down today and resign her position—that that conduct is unacceptable—just as you asked Mr Piper to resign and step down?

Hon Mr Rae: I guess the long and short of the question is that the one thing I can tell the honourable member that I know—I think everyone in the House knows—is that regardless of what happens anywhere, any time, any place, the member is going to say it's my fault. I think that's the one thing we do know.

ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr Donald Abel (Wentworth North): My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Many constituents in the riding of Wentworth North, and I'm sure there's many others in the province of Ontario, have been reading reports in the press about recent changes to OSAP. These reports have led people to believe these changes include total elimination of grants. Can you, Mr Minister, tell the people of this province whether these changes do or do not totally eliminate student grants?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): I appreciate the question because there has been a lot of misunderstanding around the first news that came out about the OSAP changes. The important thing that has to be said is that grants have not been eliminated. There remain important parts of this program in which there is direct money paid to students in order to support them.

In the first instance, it's important to remember that this is not a loans-only program, that it is a loans-first program, and that students' indebtedness is capped at current levels and beyond that level of indebtedness students cannot go. Their loans above that will be forgiven. There are, in addition, other parts of the program which are straight bursary payments to students under certain circumstances.

Mr Abel: Even with the limit on student debt loads, how does this plan help or hinder students with extraordinary costs, such as sole-support parents needing child care or disabled students who need special learning materials?

Hon Mr Allen: We've doubled the amount of money that's available for students with special needs. We've doubled the amount of money that's available directly for students who need work study programs. There are child care bursaries that are direct grants that will help sole-support parents. There is a new one-stop shopping approach through OSAP directly for persons on social assistance, and in particular sole-support parents who will benefit quite considerably under this new package in ways they couldn't in the past.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Treasurer. Mr Treasurer, you will remember that two weeks ago the member for Renfrew North asked of you the propriety of building a new headquarters for the WCB at a cost of approximately \$200 million. You knew the proposal calls for the construction of a new building of approximately 525,000 square feet at a cost, as I indicated, of about \$200 million, or about \$380 per square foot.

In addition, it is proposed that only 70% of this building would be used for the WCB, thereby of course adding 30% of commercial glut to the already 27 million square feet of excess commercial space that now exists in Toronto.

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Treasurer, two weeks ago you indicated you were concerned about this proposal, yet last Friday you allowed this project to go ahead through the opening of tenders and bids on this matter. Can you explain to this House how you can allow this type of expenditure to go through this year in this manner?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I recall the member for Renfrew North, I believe it was, raised the matter in this House and I undertook at that time to have a look at the whole issue.

It was my understanding that before the present chair of the board took his job at the board, an agreement had been reached, and I think unanimously, by the directors of the Workers' Compensation Board, including all of the employer representatives on the board, that such an arrangement should be struck and that they should proceed with the construction of a new building. That is my understanding, and I've asked for more information on that. I wasn't aware that the tenders had been opened on Friday.

Mr Offer: You weren't aware of the tenders being opened last Friday? You are allowing this \$200-million expenditure to go through when the unfunded liability of the WCB is now over \$11 billion and growing. Not only

are you embarking on this ridiculous venture but, Treasurer, you permitted only three contractors to tender.

Treasurer, only three contractors were invited to tender this project. All other contractors were specifically excluded. Why did you purposely exclude all other contractors from tendering their bids on this project?

Hon Mr Laughren: First of all, I didn't exclude anyone. I think you should separate my responsibilities from those of the board of directors of the Workers' Compensation Board.

I did ask for a legal interpretation as to what extent what had already been done was legally binding on the board of directors. I didn't make any commitment to approve or disapprove of the project, because I'm sure the member opposite would not want us to become engaged in an expensive lawsuit if that was to be the final outcome. I've simply asked for a legal interpretation to determine just what the status is of the obligations already undertaken by the board of directors of the WCB, not by me.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. Mr Minister, the Treasurer has recently announced that it's not his policies but the recession that has forced the government to cut back on the whole issue of transfer payments to the municipalities, the hospitals, the school boards, cuts on social services etc. There are a mass of cutbacks on almost everything in your government.

My question to the minister, Mr Speaker, is whether he can tell this House what the implementation costs are of Bill 164, the no-fault auto insurance bill.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions): I can't give the member precise figures this afternoon in terms of the implementation costs. The member will be aware, though, that when Bill 68 passed in June 1990 and the Liberals set up the Ontario Insurance Commission to handle the implementation of Bill 68, the process for the implementation of Bill 164 in fact was already set in motion.

The mediation and arbitration processes at the OIC in terms of auto insurance claims under the current legislation have been developing over the last two years. The process has become quite effective in turning around claims and, although we expect there will be some minimal increase in the inability of the OIC to handle all of the claims under Bill 164 with its present staff, we haven't quite determined the precise number yet. That will be very much as it's been in the last two years, a bit of working through experience.

Mr Tilson: Let me help the minister. Mr Don Scott of the Ontario Insurance Commission has told my staff that he will require 100 additional staff to implement the benefits package of Bill 164 and \$5 million more a year just to implement this so-called legislation. That is shocking.

Interjection: The minister doesn't even know it?

Mr Tilson: No, he doesn't really know it, because he obviously hasn't been speaking to Mr Scott or anyone

from the Ontario Insurance Commission. Yet he reluctantly is about to have hearings on this subject come January.

My question to the minister is, how can you justify the information that Mr Scott has revealed to us, with all that additional bureaucracy and all that additional cost to the taxpayers of this province, when hundreds of other agencies, whether it be the municipalities, whether it be the social services, whether it be the school boards, whether it be all of those other agencies, must do with less when you're willy-nilly spending all these funds on a policy that no one wants?

Hon Mr Charlton: The member should tell his staff when they're talking to Mr Scott that it might be useful if they got all of the facts and all of the information. First of all, the numbers to which the member refers include numbers which I've just referred to. I don't know the exact breakdowns, but as Bill 68, the current plan, has been evolving, there has been a requirement at the OIC for additional staff.

The Ministry of Financial Institutions, and specifically the minister, who is in dialogue with Mr Scott on a regular basis, will make the determinations at the end of the day about what the staff requirements are for Bill 164.

EDUCATION REFORM

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): My question is to the Minister of Education. Many parents in my riding are very concerned about the destreaming and also eliminating grade 13. On top of that, the members I met with from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation raised several questions with me, and I think they warrant being answered.

Some of the questions were: Would the government consider delaying destreaming grade 10 until a thorough study of the effects on grade 9 students has been completed? What happens to the grade 9 student this year who fails a subject and has to repeat it next year? How can you get rid of the OACs when universities are full? These are just a few of the questions.

Minister, are these steps being taken just to save money in the Ministry of Education, or are we looking at putting the education of our children first in this province? I think that's the real question.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I'd love to answer in detail each of the subparts of the question that the member asked, because I think he raised some very valid points. But I think I can try to answer the basic question that he has put in terms of whether we are going about looking at the changes in education as a way to save money or as a way to improve the quality of education.

Let me just say to him very clearly that, while I know that from the Conservative Party particularly we've heard that the abolition of grade 13 or that fifth year of high school will save millions of dollars, any changes we are contemplating would be done in the context of improving the quality of what we teach in our elementary and secondary schools and in ensuring that we can set out for the public and for our students a set of expectations from our school system that will clearly say what in fact our students should be able to achieve at various points in their

school careers, all of those going together to heighten the quality of education in our schools.

Mr Hayes: One of the other questions is that some of the people, especially the teachers, are quite concerned about having the proper textbooks and having the curriculum changed in time. They are really concerned also about what happens if a student fails in grade 12, for example. Does this really—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Hayes: I know that some of the members across the hall here don't care about some of these questions, but the people in my riding do. One of the things they want to know is how this is going to affect the universities, especially when there are dropouts from post-secondary education. Is this going to allow more to go into the university, or are we going to see a drop in the enrolment?

Hon Mr Silipo: I think that again the member raises a point that I can tell him we are addressing, which is the question of whatever changes we bring about with respect to the secondary school years we need to do obviously in the context of the impact that has on colleges and universities and the movement between high school and post-secondary education for young people, as well as obviously the direct link between high school and the world of work for those students who opt to go in that direction.

I can tell the member that again these are very much part of the considerations that are going through our minds as we are looking at some of the changes. I can assure him that we are taking these very much into account as we come to some decisions around these directions.

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INVESTMENT IN ONTARIO

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): My question is to the Premier. The Premier recently returned from a 16-day visit to east Asia. In his report to this House, the Premier reported that he met with more than 50 CEOs and senior executives, including those at Toyota.

The Premier, I'm sure, will know that Toyota is considering a major expansion in its existing North American production capacity, which will cost at least \$500 million. Under consideration is a new plant in either Mexico or Georgetown, Kentucky, or Ontario.

Could the Premier share with us the results of his deliberations with Toyota, and what are the prospects of that investment coming to Ontario?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, I would like to say that in terms of our dealings with Toyota, we are building on a good relationship which goes back many years. The honourable member will know that. He will know the extent to which, if I may so, patience, persistence and every solid effort are required.

What I would say to the honourable member is, the basic approach that we're taking is to emphasize the commitment of this government to research and development and to training. That's the approach that we've taken with respect to Chrysler, the approach that we've taken with

respect to Ford, the approach that we've taken with every major manufacturer in the province with respect to the areas in which the province can be of the greatest direct assistance.

Above and beyond that, all I can say is that we're discussing plans—

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): What have you got to offer them, Bob? High taxes, tough labour laws.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —potential with respect to every major manufacturer, not simply Toyota. But as soon as I have any news to announce, I can assure the honourable member that I will be glad to do so.

Mr Kwinter: We don't know the outcome of the Toyota deliberations. But we do know about, and my leader has already alluded to, the 2,000 jobs that are going to be lost at Dofasco. Not only that, but in addition to these jobs, Dofasco has announced that it's deciding on a US location for a new mini-mill.

Mr John Mayberry, the executive vice-president of Dofasco, has publicly stated why they are establishing this new mini-mill in the US. His list of American advantages range through "lower electricity costs, lower land costs, cheaper labour costs, lower taxes and the absence of an NDP-type government." Okay?

I should point out in another instance that Mr Gerhard Pfeiffer, who's the general manager for Richardson Greenshields Securities of Canada, GMBH, in Frankfurt, has discounted the concerns of German investors as a result of the referendum vote. But he did indicate that there were real concerns over Ontario's fiscal policies.

Now we have a situation where this government has created an environment where local indigenous industries are looking elsewhere to establish their expansion. Other investors from around the world are looking at Ontario and saying, "Why would we possibly invest there?"

The Speaker: Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Kwinter: Although I certainly don't want to be the bearer of bad news, I would be very surprised if that Toyota expansion happened here. What I want to ask the Premier is, what are you doing to change this negative image of this jurisdiction so that we can create the kinds of jobs that all of us in this House are desirous of doing?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say to the honourable member very directly this: For example, he raises the issue of Hydro costs. Let's talk about Hydro costs. Let's talk about why they're as high as they are. Let's talk about what's happened.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Perhaps the honourable member could stand up and say how he would deal with the \$31-billion debt which Hydro now has.

I want to say to the honourable member, we recognize our obligation to be competitive, and I think it's also our obligation—it's a shared obligation on the part of everyone

in this House—to talk up the province and not to talk it down, and to do everything we can to keep our cost structures competitive. That's exactly what we're intending to do and that's exactly what we're doing.

ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): My question is for the Minister of Energy. Ontario Hydro is currently developing plans for a new right of way from Sudbury to Toronto. There's been a great deal of concern on the part of local residents and community groups who will be affected by this project.

These groups are voicing two major concerns. First, why does Hydro need another major transmission route from Sudbury to Toronto? The second concern relates to the reason Ontario Hydro would be looking at 250 acres of prime agricultural land for a new transformer station. Please explain the rationale for proceeding with these massive capital projects, taking into consideration your plans for the utility in Ontario.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): Obviously, the member didn't listen the other day when one of my colleagues asked me almost precisely the same question, or he would have been aware of the answer before he even got up today.

Hydro's proposals for the Sudbury-to-Toronto line were proposals that were developed as part of its 25-year plan, a plan that was tabled, as the member is well aware, at the Environmental Assessment Board hearing in 1989. Part of that proposal has already been deferred. The EA hearings around the proposed options will proceed simply so that we can satisfy the question which the member has raised, the question of need.

The environmental assessment process, as the member should well know, demands that Hydro, in its environmental assessment proposal, substantiate the need for the line in the first place. Part of the proposal has already been deferred by Hydro board's decision last month.

Mr Jordan: The purpose of the environmental assessment hearing was to assess the 25-year demand-supply plan. You scrapped that plan; there is no 25-year demand-supply plan. Why are you continuing with these environmental hearings for projects that are not relative to your plans for Hydro in the province of Ontario? You're spending \$500,000 a week on these environmental assessment hearings on a plan that has been scrapped. Would you please direct them to terminate those hearings until there is a plan that you can put forward that requires such environmental hearings?

Hon Mr Charlton: Very briefly, obviously the member is somewhat confused. There are two environmental assessment processes going on here. One is the 25-year-plan hearing; the other is the environmental assessments that have to go on around the individual proposals which Hydro makes. That process will continue.

The member knows, for example, that the Manitoba purchase still has not been cancelled. It may be deferred, but those lines will be required if that purchase proceeds, and Hydro intends to proceed with the environmental assessment hearings.

1450

JOHN PIPER

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Attorney General has a response to a question asked earlier.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Last Thursday, I was asked a couple of questions by the member for Renfrew North. I gave an undertaking that I would attempt to provide the information to him by today and I wish now to respond to the questions asked of me by him last week relating to advice given by the Ministry of the Attorney General to the Premier's principal secretary. The questions asked in the House by the member were supplemented by other questions contained in a letter written to me on November 26.

As the House was advised last week, Ms Melody Morrison phoned the Deputy Attorney General at his home on Sunday, November 22, at about 10 am, seeking advice on whether Mr John Piper could re-enter his office to remove his personal property and, if so, how it should be done. The Deputy Attorney General advised her that he would provide her with advice after consulting with senior ministry counsel. He then consulted by telephone the director of criminal prosecutions, after which he phoned Ms Morrison back at about 11:30 am. The legal advice he gave her was that Mr Piper did have the right to enter and remove only his personal property, but that he could not remove any government or work-related property. Further, he advised that she should go into the office with him, observe him as he gathered the items up—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: —and then inspect the property to ensure only strictly personal property was taken.

As mentioned in the House last week, I am advised that Ms Morrison did follow the advice that she was given.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Piper was supervised throughout and all of the property was examined before it was removed. The Ontario Provincial Police had been contacted by the Ministry of the Attorney General on Friday, November 20, and asked to undertake an investigation into allegations regarding Mr Piper. That investigation is ongoing.

While the OPP were not aware in advance that Mr Piper was removing two boxes of his personal property, I am advised that Ms Morrison has met with them and has provided them with a list of property that was removed. The Deputy Attorney General did not consult with any individuals other than the director of criminal prosecutions. I was advised on Monday, November 23, that this legal advice had been requested and given.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question to the Attorney General is simply this, in light of what he said: How is it possible that in a matter so sensitive as the one the police are now investigating, the dirty trickster, Mr Piper, was allowed to go back to his office, accompanied only by someone from the same office—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Conway: —and no one seemed to bother to call the OPP to tell them that this visit was going to occur and nobody, including the Deputy Attorney General, seemed to think that it was worth his while to suggest to the OPP that they be present at the point of that very crucial visit? How did that all happen?

Hon Mr Hampton: First of all, Mr Spiker—Mr Speaker. Perhaps the former is more appropriate, Mr Speaker.

First of all, as a matter of law, Mr Piper is entitled to his personal property. That was the question that was asked and that question was answered.

Second of all, the advice was asked for, as advice is routinely asked of the Ministry of the Attorney General by all ministries within the government as to what are the legal responsibilities, what are the legal obligations and so on. That advice was given in that vein.

Secondly, the Ontario Provincial Police have been advised that Mr Piper did remove two boxes of his personal property. I understand they have been told exactly what property was removed by Mr Piper and they have had an opportunity to further follow up on that.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: The member may wish to second-guess and third-guess. That is his freedom to do so. If the Ontario Provincial Police believe that there is anything significant here, I am sure they will look into it.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired. Motions? Petitions.

PETITIONS

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

“Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a ‘quick-fix’ solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending.”

I support this petition. I’ve signed it.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): It is my great privilege again to read into the record a petition sent by the good burghers of Ontario, from Owen Sound and Lindsay and from other parts around the province.

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to family life and quality of life for all the citizens of Ontario; and

“Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gaming and gambling ventures; and

“Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had a historical concern for the poor in society, who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

“Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

“Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized gambling casinos despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario;

“Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the government immediately cease all moves to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly, along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative.”

I am glad to affix my signature, Mr Speaker, and to have these join the thousands of others who have petitioned this very same thing.

PORNOGRAPHY

Mr Hugh P. O’Neil (Quinte): I have a petition from the Quinte area which I’d like to present. The signatures were gathered by Mr Dave Switzer of Frankford. It reads:

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas pornography is exploitive of women, viewing them as mere objects of possession used as a man sees fit;

“Whereas police experience and academic research indicates that this mentality directly contributes to the escalating problem of rape and battered women;

“Whereas pornography degrades and dehumanizes women in our society;

“Whereas the 1991 federal Criminal Code, section 163, is clear and concise in its definition of ‘obscenity’;

“We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Honourable Howard Hampton, Attorney General of Ontario, to insist that the Ontario Film Review Board live up to its mandate when reviewing films and implement the letter of the law.”

I present this petition, Mr Speaker.

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Parliament of Ontario.

“Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they

should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas this proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of the citizens and their communities the police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we, in union with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I'm very happy to sign my name to this petition.

1500

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 32 residents of the county of Middlesex and London area, who petition this Legislature as follows:

"To set aside the report by arbitrator John Brant because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority who participated in arbitration hearings, it is not in the best interests of the London and Middlesex area because other and alternative solutions exist, it awards far too extensive an area of annexation to the city of London, and will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life."

I have signed my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): My petition is from the Church of the Resurrection, which is located in Thorold. It reads as follows. It is a petition to members of the provincial Parliament of Ontario re the proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gaming establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity.

"By my signature here attached I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

It's signed by a large number of residents and I affix my signature to this as I am in agreement with the petition.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I've put my name on that petition.

GAMBLING

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition here. It's from the First Baptist Church in Beamsville and Concordia Lutheran in Fonthill.

"Petition to the members of the provincial Parliament of Ontario:

"Proposal to license a permanent gambling establishment in the Niagara Peninsula:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest terms to the proposal to establish and license a permanent gambling enterprise in the Niagara Peninsula. I believe in the need of keeping this area as a place where family and holiday time will be enriched with quality of life. Such gambling establishments will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and in the Niagara region in particular. I believe that licensed gambling will cause increased hardship on many families and will be an invitation for more criminal activity.

"By my signature here attached, I ask you not to license gambling anywhere in the Niagara Peninsula."

I affix my signature to this petition.

PSYCHOGERIATRIC CARE

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I have a petition signed by a number of people from Ottawa-Carleton.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Ottawa-Carleton are presently required to transfer to Brockville Psychiatric Hospital for medium- and long-term psychogeriatric treatment; and

"Whereas there is physical space available in existing facilities in the Ottawa-Carleton region; and

"Whereas the geographic distance constitutes an unreasonable hardship for families who want to provide ongoing support and to alleviate the emotional turmoil suffered by

families now compelled to place their loved ones outside their geographic area,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To provide funding for long-term psychogeriatric care including hospital beds in Ottawa-Carleton, and we urge this funding to take place as quickly as possible."

I agree with the petition and have affixed my name.

GAMBLING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I would also like to add many names to the list that my friend from Victoria-Haliburton introduced into the House, and I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to the family life and quality of life for all the citizens of Ontario; and

"Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gambling and gambling ventures; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had a historical concern for the poor in society, who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized gambling casinos, despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government immediately cease all moneys to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly, along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative."

I have signed this.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I have a petition here from some 18 or 20 people from the community of Timmins, addressed to the members of provincial Parliament.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the defini-

tion of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I affix my signature.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

It is signed by 54 people throughout the province.

INVESTMENT FUND

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, the undersigned members of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System, do not want our pension funds invested in the Ontario investment fund; and

"Whereas we cannot jeopardize our retirement incomes by allowing the government to use our pension funds to further the NDP's political agenda; and

"Whereas the provincial government has no business gambling with the retirement income of private citizens,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to guarantee the independence of private pension funds by withdrawing the proposed Ontario investment fund."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

GAMBLING

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): I am presenting a petition signed by 48 residents of the Niagara Peninsula. Their church is located in my riding of St Catharines-Brock, and the petition reads as follows:

"We, the Church of the Resurrection, wish to express our concern and opposition to the proposed gambling casino in Niagara Falls. Our church is a regional church, with most of our congregation from St Catharines and some from Thorold, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Welland, Lowbanks, Fonthill, Fenwick, St Anns, Jordan and Beamsville."

As has been echoed by a number of members in this House already, they are concerned about a licence being granted in the Niagara Peninsula and they are concerned about criminal activity etc. I do agree with the comments made by the constituents, so I will be affixing my name to this petition.

1510

POLICE USE OF FIREARMS

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed NDP use-of-force legislation requiring police officers to write a report whenever they should unholster their pistols in anticipation of a situation of danger poses a potentially serious threat to their safety and security;

"Whereas the proposed legislation also poses a grave threat to the safety and security of the citizens and the communities police officers are sworn to serve and protect;

"Whereas the police officers themselves are not being consulted in a meaningful way by the Rae administration concerning this proposed legislation that so seriously affects their safety on the front line of service to the public; and

"Whereas we, in union with the spouses of Ontario police officers, support the health and safety concerns of members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association and other police officers across the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That Premier Bob Rae undertake to invite immediately representatives of front-line police officers to a meeting to discuss their legitimate concerns without setting any preconditions for such a meeting, and

"That this NDP administration, which in the past made health and safety one of its primary concerns, determine to exhibit the same concern about the lives of the men and women who police our communities as it does about people who work in factories, offices and elsewhere."

I affix my name and my signature to this petition.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr Hansen from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented the committee's report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 75, An Act respecting Annexations to the City of London and to certain municipalities in the County of Middlesex / Loi concernant les annexions faites à la cité de London et à certaines municipalités du comté de Middlesex.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

Shall Bill 75 be ordered for third reading? Agreed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXTENDED HOURS OF MEETING

Ms Coppen, on behalf of Mr Cooke, moved government notice of motion number 21, pursuant to standing order 6(b):

That, notwithstanding standing order 9, the House shall continue to meet from 6 pm to 12 midnight on November 30, December 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1992, at which time the

Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion, until the next sessional day.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): It has been my understanding that there's been agreement that the time be divided between the two opposition parties.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Is that agreed? Agreed.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I'm pleased this afternoon to have an opportunity to discuss some of the public's business under this particular motion standing in the name of the government House leader and put by his colleague the chief government whip.

It is, as is obvious from the wording of the motion, an effort by the government, as the government is quite properly allowed under the new standing orders, to extend the sittings in the last two weeks of the session. I, myself, don't have any particular problems with that provision since I had something to do with arguing its case just a couple of years ago, but I do want to use the opportunity this afternoon to talk about a couple of things relating to House business that this motion, I think, provides me with an opportunity to do.

The first has to do with a very, very bad habit we're getting into in this place. I have not had official confirmation from the Minister of Agriculture and Food because he could not be here, but I heard the other day—in fact, I heard on the weekend—that it's the plan of the government, having introduced the so-called stable funding legislation on farm organizations last Thursday, to in fact have that bill completed before we rise on the due date of Thursday, December 10. I can't believe it. I can't believe that there is anyone in this Legislature who honestly thinks that we can now use these new rules to preclude not only a good legislative debate but, in this case and more importantly, a debate that will allow farmers in this particular initiative to come to a legislative committee and speak their minds.

I understand that at the recent New Democratic Party council meeting at the University of Toronto over the past weekend there was some pressure brought to bear on the government party from farmers in this connection. I just simply have to believe that there is no one here, including the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who honestly thinks we can now do business in this place by introducing significant legislation that the House, and in fact, I gather, many outside the House, have not seen prior to its introduction on Thursday, November 27, if that's the right date. None the less, we are expected to pass the bill without any hearings in two weeks and three days. That, I think, is a wrongheadedness that surely must be imaginary.

I know that my friend the member for Oxford, a reasonable fellow, and his colleague the member for Lambton, representing large farm communities in southwestern Ontario, wouldn't for a moment countenance any legislative proposition that would have a bill of that kind introduced one week and passed without hearings 10 days later.

If there's anyone around here who's thinking that's the way this railroad is going to be run, I am telling whomever cares to listen, that without being particularly difficult, I

will do everything I can. I want to say to my friends opposite to think about it. Surely, that's not the way we're going to run this place. If it is, I'm going to tell you that this government or any government will do so at its peril.

It concerns me that while we all want to see the place made more efficient—unlike some over here I'm quite prepared to accept many of the sanctions in the new standing orders. I find obnoxious the way they have been interpreted and applied in some cases. "Obnoxious" understates my protest, but as I have said here on earlier occasions, the bad angels in me will want to keep all of those precedents and apply them ruthlessly against some of their architects some years from now. I just hope that when that day comes, my good angels will override my bad angels. I have to say—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: Is there any point? There seems to be—

The Speaker: To the member for Renfrew North, indeed there are a number of private conversations. It would be appreciated if perhaps members could find a different place to hold their private conversations, and the member for Renfrew North can continue.

Mr Conway: Let me just summarize that first concern. If anyone here on either side—I don't mean this just as a criticism of the government side. If people now think the way this place is going to be run is that a minister or anyone else can come in here and drop a legislative proposition like stable funding on November 27 or 28 and the bill is going to be completed in two weeks with no opportunity for anyone out there to even come and voice a concern at a committee hearing, then I think we all better think again.

I know the member for Chatham-Kent has a view on stable funding. We probably, uncharacteristically, agree on that subject, but whether we agree or not is immaterial. The notion that this railroad is going to be run so expeditiously that people are not going to get any kind of an opportunity to come in and speak their piece on a major bill—I can imagine administrative matters, housekeeping deals that do not need a great deal of time, but I want to say to my friends opposite—

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): No, no. It was the Liberals and the Tories who want to push this through.

Mr Conway: Pardon me?

Mr Hope: Don't want to change it.

Mr Conway: I don't know what the member is—I'd like to be engaged in the debate, but there's no point, it seems to me, being made with that.

Mr Hope: Well, what's your party's position on the bill?

Mr Conway: I am telling you that I certainly don't favour the proposition that has been developed and I intend to speak and vote against it. I understand others will have a contrary view. That's what Parliament's all about. But what I am very concerned about is that the public is going to have virtually no opportunity to get a say.

The Lanark-Renfrew New Democratic riding association has clearly indicated a protest over this particular initiative,

and it is now increasingly concerned not just about the substance of the bill but about a legislative timetable that's going to railroad the thing through, lickety-split, without anybody getting a chance to really think about it or talk to it. That is not what was intended when we imagined changing the rules to provide for things like late sittings as we get to the end of the fall and spring sessions.

I have no intention of denying my friend from Orono or anyone else a reasonable Christmas vacation. But having said that, it is not acceptable, nor should it be thought acceptable by anyone, that we can use these new rules to railroad major pieces of legislation through this House so that members can't have an opportunity, and as I said earlier, people out in the community who in this case won't even know what's in the bill.

I can imagine farmers, for example, getting their farm journals next week telling them that a bill has been introduced, and by the time they get a chance to write or call their local member, they may very well be told the matter's done. But not if I have my way. I don't think that's an unreasonable position for me or anyone else to take.

I want to take the other part of my time this afternoon to deal with the so-called ethics problem the government is having, particularly in the Premier's office. There has been a lot of discussion in this chamber in the last two weeks. I fear that perhaps, in my enthusiasm, I've not been able to explain to some of my colleagues on both sides why it is I feel as strongly as I do, particularly about the matter involving Mr John Piper, and why I think, before we adjourn this fall sitting, we are obligated as a self-respecting Legislature to resolve that this matter will be referred to a committee—it probably should be to the old elections and privileges committee, in my view—to look at the way in which the public trust has been superintended in the highest office in the province, namely, the Premier's office.

1520

I understand my friend from St Catharines was making the point earlier today that those of us in the opposition are not paid to be scrupulously objective. There is a subjectivity to our job, just as there is to the job of the members on the treasury bench. But I just simply want to remind honourable members what we have in this case. If some of us are a bit overwrought by the Piper case, it's because we've been around a while and we've had a great deal of respect and regard for that part of the New Democratic tradition which has, perhaps better than any of the other political parties, reached out to assist the most disadvantaged people in our community.

I think it is very important that all of us reflect upon what we know happened, what has been admitted to by the Premier's former communications adviser, Mr Piper, in this particular respect. Mr Piper has admitted to taking information that none of us outside of the department of justice ought ever to have, namely, a complete criminal history of an Ontario citizen and resident. Somehow Mr Piper came into possession of that information. He therefore, having that information, decided to use the information in a way that was intended to be transparently detrimental to the person involved, namely, Ms Judi Harris. There was a

clear wilfulness of intent on the part of the Premier's principal communications adviser.

I would go one step further and say that on the basis of the evidence such as I have before me, it seems clear that what Mr Piper was endeavouring to do was to take this highly sensitive information, which he ought never to have had and ought never to have used, and he was prepared to take and use that information in a way that was going to injure a party, a citizen of the province, Ms Harris, who had taken up an argument with the former Minister of Energy, Mr Ferguson, the member for Kitchener.

It is that conduct that is so absolutely discreditable. I would say to my friend the member for Riverdale, among others, that it is particularly discreditable for anyone working in a Premier's office, most especially working in the office of a New Democratic Premier, though, let me add, it is inexcusable on any count. But that it could happen in Bob Rae's office is almost unbelievable, because these people in that new democracy have opined with great vigour and greater regularity that they are the moral high ground. They have lectured those of us in lesser ranks for many a decade about their moral purity.

Now we've got someone Bob Rae selected, someone Bob Rae appointed to the innermost part of his government, the heart of his office, the director of communications: We've now got Mr Piper admitting to that kind of wrongdoing. It seems quite clear that what in fact was happening here was that Mr Piper was very anxious to use this information in a way that was going to affect a civil proceeding as between Mr Ferguson and Ms Harris, another reprehensible aspect of his strategy in this connection.

It has been observed by my leader and by others, including the leader of the third party, that the so-called Piper affair is another example of a very serious problem in this government, where when the government of Bob Rae is attacked, it is willing, in this case and in the Martel case, to use information that governments have in their confidential possession to have at their enemies in the public domain. That is a mindset that is very troubling.

We know, and I can confess better than most people, that all governments have had their problems, but one of the reasons I became so upset the other day when I read Mr Rae's comments in the Windsor Star and the Ottawa Citizen—"Yes, it was unfortunate and it shouldn't have happened; I don't condone it, but you know, all governments have their problems"—was that Mr Rae was trying to put out the line that this was really just like so many of the other issues that this government and other governments have had.

I beg to differ. I cannot think of another case, and I'm prepared to stand corrected, where officials as high in a government as Ms Martel last year and Mr Piper this year were apparently so willing to take information, highly sensitive and confidential information, and use that with the full force of government at their backs to publicly attack individuals who had begged to differ with the NDP government of Ontario. That is a qualitative difference that makes the Piper and Martel cases very worrisome.

Now we're told that all is well because the Premier has launched, through the department of justice, an inquiry, a

police inquiry. The police inquiry, as the member from Leeds has properly pointed out, is a narrow inquiry that's going to look at whether there was any criminal wrongdoing on the part of Mr Piper when he called Ms Dawson to his office and offered her that information. That is quite properly a matter for the police to inquire into. But there is obviously a lot more in this than the narrow band of that police inquiry.

There is the fundamental question of what kind of ethical environment were people like John Piper working in when they thought they could actually do this kind of deed and it would somehow be all right. That's not going to be a matter for the police inquiry. That's why, before we leave this place in two or three weeks' time, it is, I believe, incumbent on this Legislature to resolve that this matter be referred to a legislative committee so that it can be looked at from the point of view of the other issues—ministerial conduct, and that is the ministerial conduct of the Premier because John Piper was one of his top aides, and the conduct of senior advisers—and not just in a narrow sense of the police inquiry.

I say to my friends opposite, and let me be even more direct, to the women in the NDP caucus, who have, I think, been a very heroic group as they have struck out—the minister responsible for women's issues has been prepared to lecture some of the old boys, myself included. While I haven't liked it, I've had to listen to it and I understand something of her perspective. But I say to my friends in the women's caucus across the way, how much longer can you stand some of this?

I mean, yes, the terrible Tories and the terrible Grits did some bad things, but I don't believe that John Robarts or Bill Davis or David Peterson ever presided over something quite as serious as what John Piper was prepared to do to Judi Harris. For those of us who are asked to wear ribbons, who are asked to wear buttons, who are asked to join in these lengthy statements of support, I say to those women across the way, what are you prepared to do to assist those of us in this Legislature who believe that there is more to this Piper affair than just the police inquiry?

The Attorney General gave an answer this afternoon to my question of last Thursday.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would suggest that if it's so important to extend the sitting hours of this House, it may also be important to have a quorum.

1530

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Could the clerk check to see if we do have a quorum, please.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Mrs Deborah Deller): Mr Speaker, a quorum is present.

The Acting Speaker: A quorum is present. The honourable member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I appreciated the response—
Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member is not in his seat and he knows interjections are out of order. Please.

Mr Conway: Mr Speaker, I understand and I appreciated the response this afternoon from the Attorney General about who did what and when 10 days ago, but I ask my friends opposite, and I don't say this facetiously, to think about what the Attorney General has had to say.

We have now been told—and by the way, I know Melody Morrison and I have a high regard for her. It's because I have a high regard for her and because I know how long she's been around, and I know George Thomson, a very distinguished public servant, that I just find this response this afternoon absolutely mind-numbing. Unlike the member for London South, I'm not a lawyer, but I say to myself, "What were we told this afternoon?"

Mr David Winninger (London South): You are very good at hyperbole.

Mr Conway: Well, I may be. I want to say to my friends opposite that maybe, yes, but if there is some hyperbole, it's because I can't believe it. I can't believe I'm in this place after all of these years—people smile, and I know you think I just do go on, but if I did what John Piper did, I'm telling you, I just can't believe it. To viciously attack the most helpless in this community in the name of Bob Rae is so disgusting. I'm sorry. If I'm a bit hyperbolic, then I apologize to the tender sensibilities of friends opposite.

What are we told now? We are told that the Premier's chief of staff accompanied this dirty trickster, this scoundrel—my friend Phillips knows this character in a way that I don't, but essentially what Phillips tells me is that if you know John Piper, this is exactly what one ought to have expected. I'll say one thing further. To this day—

Mr Winninger: That's hearsay.

Mr Conway: Pardon me?

Mr Winninger: Hearsay evidence. Is that the best you can do?

Mr Conway: Well, my friend Phillips has been around Toronto school boards for a long time, and so has Mr Piper. I don't know Mr Piper, but I'm going to tell you, I gather from listening to Gerry Phillips that the line is, "What's bred in the bone must out in the flesh." He did precisely what he could have been predicted to have done. I don't know the man, I repeat, but I know what he did, and what he did is absolutely disgusting.

When the Premier came off the plane in Vancouver, his reaction, I thought, was perfectly solid and commendable. I would have reacted in the same fashion. When he said, "I'm not talking to him now or ever again," I could understand his anger.

What then do we find? His chief of staff, two days later, is accompanying the honourable dirty trickster—what a phrase: the dishonourable dirty trickster—back to the scene of the crime without anyone calling the cops to tell them, these people who are undertaking the police inquiry, that they're making this late-night visit to remove materials.

If this had been an issue of drunk driving or a sexual peccadillo, I mightn't have been as concerned about the removal of papers and things, but remember what this character, Piper, was doing in that office. He was mounting

a dirty tricks campaign against one of the victims of Grandview, Judi Harris. Now, if he was prepared to do that with Judi Harris, what else do you suppose he might have been prepared to do?

Now we're told that he was allowed to go in to decide for himself basically what were his personal effects and to take out two boxes of things. I wonder how much computer erasure there was. I wonder how many discs were in those boxes. I don't know, but I can't imagine ever being so implicated and anyone allowing me to go back with my pal Bradley, or Bob Richardson from Lyn McLeod's office, to say, "Oh, Conway, yes, well, you do what we tell you to do." It would be just unthinkable. Talk about a conflict of interest. As I say, I don't know Piper but I know Morrison, and I can't believe that Melody put herself in a position of such difficulty.

How are we ever going to know? It's that office which is going to be under investigation. There may be nothing to my charges, but who's to know?

Interjection: Probably not.

Mr Conway: The member from wherever says, "Probably not." All I know is that the man who brought this latest disgrace, and this ultimate disgrace, on this government was up to a rotten, miserable, nasty dirty-tricks campaign against a defenceless citizen in this province who has been victimized, apparently, quite enough by a number of people.

Now I'm being asked, unbelievably, to accept the idea that somebody else from the office under investigation was allowed to go back and supervise Mr Piper as he took things out of there, and nobody, not the Deputy Attorney General, not the chief of staff to the Premier, not the Attorney General, no one, bothered to phone the police.

All we've heard from the government in the last 10 days is about the first-order importance of the police inquiry. There's a hell of a lot of credibility to a police investigation when the scoundrel and one of his coworkers, not a scoundrel in my view, Ms Morrison, were none the less allowed to go back to the scene of the crime and remove what I believe could very well be some of the evidence.

I'll take my seat by making the point again. I don't know what happened here. You know what may have happened? It may have been a complete oversight by Ms Morrison and other people. But I ask reasonable people across the way to imagine what this looks like to anyone on this side of the House or outside. Imagine the idea that you could be allowed to go back unsupervised by the police, accompanied only by somebody who is also going to be under investigation by the very nature of the offence and who is not at arm's length from the villain in this piece, Mr Piper, and being allowed to, on your own, walk out of the building with whatever you consider to be your personal effects.

Today—and I haven't seen the Hansard—the Attorney General is now suggesting that there was some kind of a record kept. That's going to be interesting.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I hope some day somebody goes after you on a personal level.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for Downsview is not in his seat. He continues to interject, and we will not accept this.

Mr Conway: I just want to say that what happened here is deeply offensive to political ethics inside this Legislature and outside, and I have to believe that everybody understands that. I have to believe, because the offence in this case is so unprecedented and so serious, that we will all want to do the right thing, and that is get to the bottom of the environment in Mr Piper's office that allowed him to imagine that he could do something as outrageous and as unthinkable as he was prepared to do to Judi Harris. That's why I believe there is a reasonable and good case for a legislative inquiry into the whole surrounding of the Piper affair.

I will say again that in the Martel matter we had a legislative inquiry running alongside of a police inquiry, and I can tell you that all members of all parties behaved, I think, quite admirably in keeping confidential that information which they were told to keep to themselves. In my memory, that was done. It's not unusual to have a police investigation running alongside of a legislative inquiry.

But I can't believe there is anyone—and I can't believe the women's caucus in the New Democratic Party is going to allow this issue to simply rest with a police inquiry, because the issues at stake go much beyond the narrow question of criminal misconduct. There are fundamental issues of ethics and judgement and operations that we have an obligation to get to the bottom of.

If anybody over there, including my friend the Premier, thinks that he's going to rag the puck with this police investigation for another nine days and that'll be the end of this, I'll just say to him and to his colleagues that it will be a frosty Friday in July before I ever feel the urge to join my friends in the new democracy, particularly as they invite us all to do certain things in the area of victims' rights and women's issues, because we have a female victim here who was absolutely assaulted by the highest office in the land, and she and all of the people she stands for deserve more in terms of accountability than the narrow police inquiry is ever going to be able to provide.

1540

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Mr Cooke's motion?

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I rise today on this motion to continue the proceedings past 6 o'clock to midnight for the next two weeks. When I tell people in my riding, when they ask me what I'm going to be doing for the next little while, "I'm going to be sitting till midnight to debate bills that this House has put forward," they find it rather strange, particularly when the government, the NDP, has just recently passed a set of rules for this place which shorten the proceedings by two weeks. Here we are sitting for the next two weeks, perhaps at least the next two weeks, past midnight to discuss a number of bills.

We start listening to what this government has yet to do. They have introduced a number of bills. We've had second reading on a number of bills. We have to proceed with third reading on a number of bills. Second reading

that is required—and I'm going to list a number of these bills to show how it is absolutely impossible for this government to complete the agenda that has been put forward. It has no idea how to govern this place. It puts forward these bills—I don't know what's going to happen to them; I suspect they'll die, but here they are:

In the next two weeks, we are going to be having second reading on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board; Bill 90, which is apartments and houses; the political activity rights issue; pay equity in the public service; the OLRA construction issue; the long-term care issue, which was just recently put forward.

Third reading is required on Toronto Islands, where of course they're building non-profit housing and co-op housing; they're expanding the housing on our parklands in Toronto Islands—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Is that on the flood plain?

Mr Tilson: Well, they're building it on flood plains, they're building it on parklands and, more importantly, parklands which—I have yet to understand why they're going on that policy, on a policy they can't afford.

As well, they're proceeding with the road safety agency, where third reading is required—that's Bill 39; the education act, Bill 88; market value assessment—that's Bill 94; the three advocacy bills. Members of the public contact my office and they ask where we are on that and, of course, the bills have been so substantially changed from when we first proceeded with these bills, no one really knows where we're going. Yet somehow I suspect this government is going to try and ram this through in the next two weeks, sitting till midnight.

The subject of teachers' pensions; the greater London issue, Bill 75; Sunday shopping, Bill 38, remember that? Remember how that issue, Bill 38—I don't know whether we're going to debate on that or not. There are many people in the government and many on this side who—Sunday shopping is now proceeding in this province and yet there's no law. It's complete anarchy as far as the whole subject of Sunday shopping is concerned. That bill was put forward and the existing law is not being obeyed.

The income tax act, Bill 31; retail sales tax, Bill 32; tobacco act and liquor control act, Bill 85; the vehicle transfer bill, that's Bill 34, which all of us have had many inquiries on. Those are some of the bills—oh, and of course, there's the AgriCorp package, which is 63, 64 and 65. I believe second and third reading is required for those bills. The game and fish act, which many of us—particularly in the rural ridings there's been much controversy on that bill. That bill has yet to be proceeded with, Bill 162. Special education, Bill 37; livestock, poultry, bees damage, Bill 78; Ontario Arts Council, Bill 72.

That's just up until last week. This government intends to proceed with that legislation prior to Christmas; at least it hopes to. How they will, I have no idea. Again it's the issue of how is this province governing itself? How are we governing? I guess the image out there, at least, is that we're in a state of chaos. We have all these bills and we've now waited till the last two weeks to proceed with that.

Last Thursday, which is the last day the legislation could be introduced and still receive second reading, a number of bills were introduced: the Long Term Care Statute Law Amendment Act, 1992, which is Bill 101; the Pay Equity Amendment Act, which is Bill 102; the Firefighters Protection Act, which is Bill 103; the Farm Organizations Funding Act, which is Bill 105.

Also introduced last week were the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board Act—that was introduced last Monday and that's Bill 96; the Limitations Act, which was introduced by the Attorney General last Wednesday—that's Bill 99; the Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act, Bill 100, and that was introduced last Wednesday.

Isn't it mind-boggling when we hear all these pieces of legislation? Some have had second reading, some have had first reading, some have yet to have third reading. How are we going to do it? You've shortened the rules of this place, you've changed the whole structure of this place. They don't want to sit, and now, to ram it through before Christmas, we're going to debate all these bills, and that will be on time allocation, I might add. So it's become quite a process we have in the Ontario Legislature, quite a strange process to proceed with.

The previous speaker has just spoken on the John Piper affair, and I think that's an issue that I must also address. When we get into that subject, it is very strange, particularly the revelations that were raised today by the Attorney General: how one political individual, Mr Piper, can go to his office, clean out his office with his political associate, under her guidance. We don't know what was in those boxes. We don't know what went on in that office. We have no idea what went on in that office for that period of time that they were allegedly picking up his personal items. The shredder could have been going, for all we know. We don't know. There was absolutely—

Mr Bradley: Could have been?

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Going non-stop.

Mr Tilson: Well, I hate to make that allegation. That's the why the request for an all-party committee is most reasonable, because we forget what this is all about: This is all about the Premier's office, the top level, and these sorts of activities are going on in the Premier's office, these dirty tricks that have been mentioned in this House, as to how it's been described.

We don't know. Justice must be done, and justice must appear to be done.

The Premier is saying, "Oh, well, the OPP is having this under investigation," notwithstanding the fact that after that was made, of course, Mr Piper arrives at his office, picks up two boxes—and who knows what was in those boxes?—and trots them off. And who knows what he did while he was in his office? Who knows what he and Ms Morrison were doing? Perhaps it's unfair of me to make those allegations. At the very least, if they didn't want to have a member from the Ontario Provincial Police attend and observe what was being taken from that office, there are other people. Even a security guard could have

gone into that office and observed what those two were doing in there. It really is shocking conduct for the top office in this province to be carrying on business. I think the real question is, what else goes on in the Premier's office? What other tricks are there, with all of these scandals?

We have listened to the scandals that have developed. Some of them have been solved, some of them are still going on, some of them probably haven't even been revealed yet. That is the question. Is this the type of conduct, is this the way the Premier of this province does business? Because it's not Mr Piper; it's the Premier. He's the one who chose him. It's under his guidance that this whole operation is carrying on. I think the taint that has been painted of the Premier's office is unbelievably shocking.

In a way, this matter seems to be, "Oh, well, we've dealt with this issue long enough, we've been in the House and we've asked all kinds of questions, and perhaps it should go away." It shouldn't go away. I think the people of this province have a right to know exactly what goes on in the Premier's office. What kind of conduct should a Premier proceed with? We've heard about his own personal conflicts of interest and how he gets matters pushed up for development. That's one thing, but it's getting worse. So what else has Mr Piper done?

I think we're entitled to proceed with that in a reasonable way and I believe the only way that can be properly aired is in an all-party committee.

Of course they say, "There's an OPP investigation," and that is very fine, an OPP investigation, but that's just on one issue. I don't think the Premier understands what the taxpayer and what the people in this opposition on this side of the House are concerned with. We're concerned with what other issues have been going on, with other dirty tricks that have been going on. And that's all it is: dirty tricks, the slandering of a woman or the slandering of a doctor up north—

1550

Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This talk that the member across the way is doing is all fine and dandy, but can you please bring him back to the order in question, which is late-night sittings?

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. It's all business that will be discussed and debated in this chamber and I believe it does have some relevancy. The honourable member has the floor.

Mr Tilson: The member has raised a valid point. I think that's what the members of the government want to do. They want this issue to go away. They don't want us to talk about it any more.

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): Oh, give me a break.

Mr Tilson: You say, "Oh, no." I tell you that there should be an all-party committee. You can't hide behind an OPP investigation where there are no documents: The documents are gone; the very document we're concerned with in this whole issue has disappeared, it's gone. So how is the OPP going to have an investigation? What else is going on in the Premier's office? We have every right to know what is going on in this government. You can't hide behind

OPP investigations and you can't say, "It's not relevant to talk about this." We have every right to talk about this.

I believe there should be a full all-party inquiry on this subject, but there are other matters that seem to be rushing through. Our party has called for full hearings on the subject of market value assessment, and that is going on today. It's very strange that today in the House we're going to be debating the subject of market value assessment while public hearings are going on. Isn't that a strange way to do things? In other words, that whole sense of "Rush, rush, rush, put these bills forward." It's called, how do you govern? You put these bills forward, but you have no idea how to govern.

The subject of market value assessment: Obviously there are people, I suspect members of the government, in particular members of the cabinet—it's interesting to watch—some of whom represent some of the areas of Toronto, and I'm sure they're having a great deal of difficulty politically as to what they're doing.

It's an important issue that this not be a debate simply on who will pay more and who will pay less with respect to taxes. I am not from the city of Toronto. I represent Dufferin-Peel, and we made this decision some time ago. I suppose I, as a member of this House and as the member for Dufferin-Peel, am concerned about what goes on in Toronto. Why? Because how the economy of Toronto goes, how goes the rest of the province. I'm concerned with that and I'm concerned with how this government is handling this issue.

I believe we need to spend more time on it. We need to look at the implications of changing the tax structure of an important economic centre of this province, namely, the city of Toronto. Have we spent enough time on that? Do we know where we're going? Perhaps the implications will be only minor, but the proponents and the opponents of market value assessment seem to acknowledge that it is a very important change, not simply to the tax structure but to Metropolitan Toronto itself.

The committee—which is proceeding as we speak, as I understand it—should be charged to provide clear, timely and useful information to this Legislature to allow us to make an intelligent decision. That is my concern with respect to this motion: Are we going to have sufficient information to make a decision of this sort?

There's the whole subject of businesses. One needs to look at the effects of market value assessment. The first effect I think we need to look at are the businesses in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: While I'm finding this to be very interesting and really informative and I'm listening to him very closely, I'll remind him that that's precisely the reason why we have to sit here until midnight tonight: because we have to listen to this fuddle-duddle.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable member for Dufferin-Peel.

Mr Tilson: There's no question that many businesses in the city of Toronto will find their taxes rising and many in the suburbs will find that their taxes fall. Obviously,

areas in downtown Toronto, for example, will see their taxes rise sharply; facts have been put forward, and that's exactly what will happen.

The business core is located in downtown Toronto. Given that all those businesses are located in downtown Toronto, the question is, what will be the impact of higher taxes on these businesses? We need to know that for the rest of the province, not just for downtown Toronto, because how the economy goes in Toronto is how it goes in the rest of the province. Will the taxes be passed on in the form of higher prices, layoffs and closings? A lot of serious threats have been made, are being made even today, and we need to know more about that. We need to know more information so that this House, this place, can make a proper, intelligent decision with respect to that specific bill on market value assessment.

The second effect is the whole subject of residential patterns, and we need more information on that. Will market value assessment discourage people from buying homes in the city of Toronto or will it spread out and become the urban sprawl that many of us fear? Will it raise the rents?

This government has spent a great deal of time and is continuing to talk about how the rents are rising in this province, when in fact they're going down; vacancies are being made more available. Yet they continue with the whole policy of non-profit housing and co-op housing at the expense of the taxpayer. There are vacancies all over the place, yet this government continues on this blind policy of non-profit housing and co-op housing. They're expanding it even to the Toronto Islands, they're expanding it to Wellesley and Bay—unbelievable decisions.

We need to have facts on that. Will this policy raise the rents of tenants already living in the city? What will be the impact on development of new housing? Will there be any new development? Will development even come to the downtown core, because of this policy? We need more information on that.

Thirdly, we need to find out more information with respect to the topic of planning. I need to know, as do all members of this House need to know, what sort of planning has gone into this change in tax structure. How is Metropolitan Toronto prepared to deal with any of the negative implications of market value assessment, such as higher business taxes because of this legislation. Changes in traffic patterns, whatever; all these need to be assessed before we proceed with this legislation. Has the province done any planning in order to proceed in the way it's been going, or is it going blindly along like it does in a lot of its other legislation? The whole housing policy is a complete shambles, because they're going on blindly, proceeding in an area in which they have no idea what they're doing.

The subject of transit: One media report has warned that there will be substantial increases of taxes on CP Rail, which will be passed on to GO Transit, which leases rail lines from CP. It indicates that fares could rise as much as \$20 a month, which of course concerns people in my riding. People in my riding don't even have GO Transit; we have to drive our cars to Brampton and other areas and pick up

the GO bus or the GO train and get into Metro or the areas to the south in that fashion. We don't even have it, we're trying to get it, but it's going to be made more expensive. That's the prediction of market value assessment.

I think we in this House, the legislators, need to know more on the impact this is going to have not only in Metropolitan Toronto but outside Toronto.

There was even an article by Mr Ian Harvey in the *Toronto Sun* this morning that talked about this subject of how fares are going to increase. It's an article I'm sure you've all read. I'm going to refer to sections, because it is quite startling, particularly if you're a commuter from outside the area. All of us may sit back and say, "Oh, well, market value assessment really doesn't have an effect on us." But it does. It does. If you live in any area around Metropolitan Toronto, it's going to affect you; it's going to affect your constituents. So I think this is an article that all of you should read, and I'm going to refer to sections of it.

1600

Mr Harvey says in his article: "All those folks riding home on GO Transit during the controversial market value assessment debate probably thought the issue had nothing to do with them.

"Wrong. CP Rail, which 'leases' rail lines to GO Transit, says they may find their ticket fares rising by \$20 a month because of the scheme and because of the way railway lands are taxed.

"As every taxpayer in Metro now knows, the way property taxes are calculated these days will change under MVA, with the most likely direction being up for those in business or in the city of Toronto.

"And taxes on lands where utilities and railways have rights of way will rise because municipalities recently won a ruling allowing them to tax the companies owning or controlling those lands."

This is the important part of this article, which I would ask that all members consider:

"Add it all up and it means a 225% hike in CP Rail's Metro property taxes. Its bill is projected to hit \$40 million next year."

So the whole subject of transit should be canvassed, I think, more than what we are doing in this Legislature, before we make this decision, which is not only going to affect the people of Metro but is going to affect all of us.

There is the whole subject of urban density. The push in recent government and, I would hope, this government, in the last few years has been away from expanding Metro's geographic size, which destroys prime farm land—notwithstanding, of course, what this government is trying to do in my riding in Caledon, where we've already got two sites on the short list to put a superdump for Peel in prime farm land. But notwithstanding that policy that the government is now getting into, generally speaking, it's been trying to preserve farm land and move towards intensifying the use of space that it already takes up.

This policy contradicts that, because the more dwelling/shop units, shops and stores that can be fitted into a certain area, the more cohesive the community and the more efficient the provision of services such as roads, such as parking, such as public transit and schools can be.

In the whole philosophy, whether we're talking housing, as I say, or whether we're talking roads, that's been the concept: to make it more dense, more compact.

This, of course, is density and it is a vital component in increasing the environmental sustainability of cities, as well as in reducing costs. Some studies show—and this is something that I think this House needs to spend some more time on—that market value assessment discourages density, since denser areas will pay higher taxes despite the fact that they are proportionately more efficient users of services.

The final effect, which I don't believe this House has spent sufficient time on—nor, as I suspect, is it spending sufficient time in committee—is that Metropolitan Toronto is an important economic centre in Ontario. This is the centre of the Ontario economy.

So the question is, what will be the effect on the province of Ontario as a result of market value assessment? Will it be positive or negative? I'd like to hear more about that, because once it's passed, that's it. And I honestly don't know the effect that it is going to have on the province of Ontario.

If market value assessment causes businesses and tenants to move to the suburbs, how much money will the province of Ontario be expected to find to help expand the services in the suburbs?

Then there's the issue of tourism. That pops up periodically on encouraging people to come to Toronto for the whole purpose of conventions, for our wonderful world champion Blue Jays team, for the Toronto Maple Leafs, for all of the sporting activities, for all of the theatre and drama, the Royal Ontario Museum, the art gallery, all of these issues. They're all in Toronto, and people are attracted to this city to come here.

What is the effect? Well, I'll tell you, one of the concerns, of course, in the theatre—I notice the minister is here in the House and it'll be interesting to know whether she realizes the effect that this legislation is going to have on art groups. It's been suggested that this legislation could push the already stretched arts budgets over the limit. A survey of 14 cultural organizations show that they face an average 134% increase: the National Ballet of Canada, from \$72,000 to \$201,000; Toronto Truck Theatre, from \$4,000 to \$12,000—these are the anticipated effects of market value assessment on the arts groups in the city of Toronto—Ontario Crafts Council, from \$7,000 to \$25,000. Even the 25% cap which has been suggested is too much for many of these. So there's the whole effect on tourism, on the arts, on attracting people to Ontario, because what is good for Toronto is good for Ontario.

I believe this will cause many hundreds of people to be thrown out of work, and I'm concerned about the effect that's going to have on the province. Already the number of people who are out of work in this province is unbelievable. Will this legislation have that effect? It's been alleged that it will. I'm concerned with the terrible rush we're being forced to be put in with respect to this motion for the next two weeks.

I'm going to close my comments on this motion, other than to say that the government of Ontario needs to put

more thought in its planning for legislation that's being put forward, as opposed to putting lists and lists of bills for first, second and third reading, and not having the time to properly deal with them or properly debate them.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for St Catharines.

Mr Bradley: I regret that of course there's so little time to deal with this particular motion, but under the new rules Bob Rae has imposed upon this House, members are extremely limited.

First of all, I think I should deal initially with the reason this motion is before the House, this motion that the House shall sit this week and next week for the purposes of dealing with legislation between 6 o'clock in the evening and 12 midnight. It's quite obvious why the government wishes to do this. This is the government, first of all, that, through the Premier's new rules, has cut the number of weeks this Legislature is in session, and of course the business of the House can only be dealt with appropriately and the government held accountable when the House is in fact in session.

Unfortunately, the Premier has decided this doesn't fit him. I think that's probably partly on the advice of John Piper, the departed chief adviser to the Premier of Ontario, who suggested that the government should manage all of its news and avoid the news media and the members of the opposition, except when it's to its own convenience.

The government wants to essentially avoid question periods, the time when it is most accountable. Therefore, if you count up the number of session days, you would say there are two more weeks being added for the government to do its business but to not be accountable to the people of this province.

I've dealt in this House with the new rules of the Legislature on many occasions and I recognize it is not an issue that editors are going to be interested in. If the people who cover Queen's Park go to their editors with a story about rules, they'll say, "Well, that's an in-house circumstance, that's an in-house issue, and we don't think we're going to do much about it." But they don't recognize, I believe, the ramifications of these rules—what it means for the governing of Ontario.

Again, the Piper affair—Pipergate, as the member for Renfrew North has referred to it—really demonstrates what it's all about. It's the concentration of the power in the hands of non-elected people, the so-called experts who advise the Premier.

1610

The Premier has available to him some 73 other members of the Legislature, the government caucus. He has, if he chooses to listen on any occasion to the opposition, the collective members of the opposition. If the Premier wants to get good advice, he should listen to those who are elected, those who are accountable to the people in the areas in which they reside and the areas they represent, because they best know the issues that are affecting people on an everyday basis and they're best able to give the kind of advice that the Premier should accept. But premiers tend not to do that, and Bob Rae, as Premier of this prov-

ince, has selected a number of people to advise him. These people are not elected, and by changing the rules of the House he has further concentrated the power of this government in the corner office, in the Premier's office itself.

One shouldn't be surprised when the latest Piper affair comes out. Mr Piper has a long reputation as a political fixer. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt indicated clearly to the House his knowledge of Mr Piper. One need only go back into the history. He's reputed to be a smart public relations person who can manage news and discredit those who would dare to oppose the government, though I think those people wouldn't be those who are on the Radio Noon phone-in show, because once again, if all Ontario were opposed to the NDP government, I assure you that on the Radio Noon phone-in show and on Radio Noon or, as some of my friends refer to it, NDP Noon, there would be scant criticism of this particular government. That is on a daily basis. When they aren't talking about whether you can identify a bird by the noise it makes or what the first prom you ever attended was like, when they're not doing that, they are doing favourable journalism for the NDP. There's another word they use in the business that we're not allowed to use in this House.

The Piper affair is one which I refer to actually as the Rae affair, and the reason I so refer to it is that the Premier himself must select the people he wants for his chief advisers. He's going to select people, first of all, whom he believes are smart, are intelligent, have good judgement and are people who can be helpful to him in carrying out his responsibilities—clearly his judgement. He knows the record of John Piper and the style of John Piper. He must accept the responsibility as the person who appointed John Piper to that position.

I was listing reaction to what the government's doing lately. Members opposite would say the opposition are always going to be critical and some members of the news media, from time to time, outside of the CBC programs such as Radio Noon, NDP Morning and NDP 4 to 6, are not going to be very critical—the odd little dig in there but not very much in terms of criticism. They always assume that it's the opposition or those who are philosophically opposed who are critical of the government.

But I was reading the Windsor Star, November 25 and November 28, and the headline in one column by Paul McKeague says, "Rae's Follies Worry McCurdy." Howard McCurdy, as I recall, is a very strong and dedicated member of the New Democratic Party, and I was wondering what Howard had to say about this government.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): What did he say?

Mr Bradley: The member for Scarborough North says, "What did he say?" It says, "Windsor-St Clair MP Howard McCurdy is exasperated with the antics of his NDP brethren at Queen's Park and he's not shy about saying so. 'Bob Rae is not very popular right now,' he says. 'There's no question Bob Rae is going to have to get his act together.'"

Then Mr McKeague goes on and says in his column, "Dissatisfaction with the Rae government is tainting the

federal party, which could only look on helplessly as Rae's gang ran amok last week." That's Howard McCurdy who was worried about this. Mr McKeague, the columnist, is noting this.

"Ontario's NDP government is giving the entire province a fit of giggles. People look forward to the latest news from Queen's Park the way they once awaited the reruns of Gilligan's Island. Being a laughingstock is even worse for a government than being disliked, but the abrupt resignation last Friday of John Piper, who reportedly tried to smear a woman whose allegations were embarrassing to the government, suggested that there's also a dark side to Skipper Rae's crew. If this is NDP government, why would they want such a government in Ottawa?"

Then I read on the 28th, "McCurdy Calls Provincial Cuts a Serious Mistake." Perhaps Mr McCurdy should run for this House and offer his criticisms of the government. But this is a New Democrat, not an opposition person saying this. It says:

"Ontario's NDP government has violated social democratic principles by scrapping student aid grants in Thursday's mini-budget, New Democrat Howard McCurdy charged Friday. The Windsor-St Clair MP is outraged that an NDP government has made it more difficult for low-income people and single parents to get the post-secondary education they need to succeed in the modern economy. And he says"—this is Mr McCurdy—"If there is any basis for social justice, it has got to be not just to keep people off welfare and social assistance but to make investments in people."

McCurdy also said, "The cuts make no sense economically."

"I think it is a serious mistake," said the federal NDP's industry critic. "It is fundamentally inconsistent with what I deem to be the social democratic approach to economic development. We need as much encouragement to education as we can possibly have."

"In today's modern economy, high-valued knowledge and learning are critical to the creation of wealth," said McCurdy."

"If Ontario is going to compete, it's through education, it's through training. Thursday's announcement by Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren sends out entirely the wrong message," McCurdy said."

It went on and there's a little bit of an apology here. Others say, "Well, you've got to give them a chance" and so on, but McCurdy said, "The provincial government should have looked for other ways to make savings than cutting student aid grants."

"What the country needs is an infrastructure of knowledge," he said, "not just roads and transportation."

Even Steve Langdon defended the mini-budget, "but NDP policy at both the federal and provincial levels is to increase access to post-secondary education, and the provincial mini-budget moves in the opposite direction, he acknowledged."

Mr Mahoney: Who said that?

Mr Bradley: This was Steve Langdon.

Now these are not Liberals or Conservatives or people not affiliated; these are NDP members who are concerned that the promises that were made to the people of this province are promises that have not been kept. I just thought I should share that with the members here.

I guess, to go back to the Piper affair and the scandals that have racked this government, I would acknowledge that when people were thinking about the New Democratic Party in the past, and particularly in the last election, they may have believed that the NDP really couldn't run the economy very well, or weren't particularly noted for being good managers of the economy, and certainly that has proven to be the case, but they acknowledged that. I think most people would have acknowledged that's probably the case.

They would have thought, as well, that these people had policies that the mainstream of the province of Ontario didn't agree with, that they were essentially the fringe of Ontario: different policies, by all means, but outside the mainstream, the moderate middle of the province of Ontario.

But the one thing they would have believed, in my view, was that this government was going to be different, that it was ethically superior and morally superior to parties that had been in power before.

Well, if there is any doubt about that today, one simply has to look at the series of scandals and government activities to know that this party is certainly no better than any other party in terms of its ethics. If one had sat in this House as long as I have, listening to the sanctimony of the Premier of this province, listening to the pronouncements on the campaign trail and elsewhere of Premier Rae, one would have anticipated that the NDP would be different.

To flog an issue just very briefly that I have touched on before, an example of that is the so-called patronage system. I've always said in this House and I've said in committee: "You know, you won the election. If you want to appoint your own people, at least appoint good, competent people. Whether New Democrats or not, the public doesn't expect something different."

But Bob Rae said he wasn't going to do that. He was going to have a new system out there that would bring only the very best people, regardless of their political affiliations, into positions in government. That hasn't happened. I said in the committee that New Democrat after New Democrat is appointed. Again, I say to the committee: "I understand that. You are the government. You are entitled to do so. But please, none of the hypocrisy. Please don't tell me you have a system that produces different results. It may be good window dressing. You may be able to sell it at the provincial council on a weekend, but you certainly can't sell it to objective observers in this province."

1620

I also look at the danger of politicizing the civil service. I see that David Agnew, the campaign manager of Bob Rae, is now the head of the civil service. What happens out west is that when governments change hands, change parties, they have to fire virtually the entire senior civil service at a great cost to the taxpayer, because no

longer are they golden handshakes; they're now platinum handshakes that are given to these people.

In Ontario, the tradition has been that when a government changed hands—and to a certain extent in the federal government—it has been a non-partisan civil service. There were some people who did move on but the majority stayed in those positions and served the new government. What this government has done, what Premier Rae has done is to begin to politicize the civil service.

They can hire their large staffs, and I understand they have huge staffs now in various ministers' offices, even at a time when they're cutting others. I know they're wiping out entire floors to have those new people put in, and I understand that is happening. They are political people and they're entitled to do that. My plea is that the government not politicize the civil service, and certainly the civil servants believe that is happening.

Something else I want to touch on, and the member for Mississauga West will put a note in front of me when he wants me to cease my activities, but I do want to deal briefly with a couple of other issues that I've dealt with rather extensively in the House.

One is the automotive industry. I want it placed before members of this assembly again a concern about the automotive industry in Ontario. I hope we do well, I hope we have further investment and I hope we can retain the investment we have today, but I continue to worry that at a time when the North American and world auto industry is going through many changes we, in this province, aren't addressing the issue as we might. I hope that by having raised the issue in the House a number of times, this has changed and that there's full attention being devoted to that.

I was concerned when the Premier headed over to Japan at a time when decisions have to be made. I hope those decisions are favourable. There isn't anybody in this House on the opposition side—certainly not on the government side—who wants to see something bad happen within the industry just so we can say, "Oh, well, it's the government's fault," and point fingers. We all hope the news will be good and I implore the government and all members of the assembly to work towards that goal.

I know my colleagues in the Niagara region on all sides, on the government side, feel as I do that it's an extremely important issue, and all of us are endeavouring to have the governments at the provincial and federal levels address that issue.

One I want to touch on very briefly is that of developmentally handicapped people. I've always said that I ran for the Legislature to defend those who cannot defend themselves, to represent those who do not have power and privilege in this province, and the reason I think all of us run should be that very reason. The powerful can defend themselves. The privileged are in a privileged position. People with lots of money have the ability to exert power and influence in any society, but we in this Legislature are elected to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Among the most vulnerable of those people are those who are developmentally handicapped individuals, and I saw those individuals and the people who work with them

and their families on the front lawn of this Legislature. That should not be necessary. It should always be a priority with whatever government is in power that the best of services be provided for these individuals, who through no fault of their own, find themselves in circumstances where they cannot easily compete with others in society. So I implore the government, when it is determining its priorities within the framework of fiscal responsibility that it must, that it assign an extremely high priority to those who are the most vulnerable in the society in which we live.

I could go on to a number of other issues, but I want to provide for the member for Mississauga West, whom I must congratulate, by the way, for the private member's bill that he presented to the House which prevented young people from squandering their money on yet another government lottery. I will leave him 15 minutes; that leaves me 44 seconds.

I want to mention something, and here's something where you get a chance to say, "I told you so." I wish it hadn't happened, but it was so obvious. Did everybody see the headline about Detroit now?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Yes, I saw that. I've got it here. Don't steal my thunder.

Mr Bradley: Of course. They've got a huge casino going to go into Detroit. It was just predictable that if you establish one in Windsor, they'll put one in Detroit, and do you know what? It's going to cause even more people to flock over the border to Detroit. It was just as obvious as could be. Again I criticize, along with some government members, the government moving into the casino business in this, our Ontario.

The last point, and I promise the very last point, is that I also ask the government not to abandon its policy of moving ministries to various parts of the province. The rumour is out there that the Ministry of Transportation move to St Catharines may be in jeopardy. I don't believe the rumour because I don't want to believe the rumour, because I can't believe this government would abandon such a sensible policy initiated by the previous government. I'm sure my two colleagues who represent St Catharines are with me in imploring the Minister of Transportation and the Chairman of Management Board not to allow that to happen.

On that note, I'm pleased to turn over the floor to the Conservatives and then ultimately to my friend Steve Mahoney, the MPP for Mississauga West.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate, the member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: I look forward to the speech by the member from Mississauga centre. It should be rather interesting and telling.

Mr Bradley: Have you ever been invited on Radio Noon?

Mr Stockwell: No, as a matter of fact. Have I ever been invited on Radio Noon? No, I haven't—

Mr Mahoney: Do you own a cottage on the island?

Mr Stockwell: —but that's not surprising. No, I don't own a cottage.

This specific debate is rather, I think, enlightening for the government backbenchers. It allows them to know exactly what's cooking in opposition with respect to the issues that they see as important or specific—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: I'm sorry, I missed that; the member from Cochrane was mumbling. It allows us in opposition to discuss some of the issues that we find particularly difficult or offensive or that we feel particularly strongly about, where we don't think the government is giving them a fair shake.

My first comment is that I always carry with me, and I find it really, really enlightening whenever I get into a discussion with someone who, say, voted for the NDP—they're fewer and fewer as we move on in time, but I find that they always like to hear about An Agenda for People. I've always got my Agenda for People handy. It's always good to go through this Agenda for People and remind those members opposite and their supporters throughout the province exactly what they promised last election.

Many of those people would say, "Gee, well, they didn't know a recession was coming." We all know that's not true because the Premier was on the campaign trail telling all the people in the province of Ontario, "We're into a recession and you'd better vote for us because we're going to institute An Agenda for People." They also say to me at that time, when I hear about their concerns during that election, that the Agenda for People was something they put out just for an election and that they really didn't believe they could implement it.

I find that particularly offensive, because they never said that to us during the campaign or afterwards. They sit in their cabinet cars and their seats here and they'd just as soon this went away, the Agenda for People. It's not going to go away. It's something you made promises about and it really is particularly good reading. I ask any member of the public out there who's watching today to phone my office at 325-7535 and request a copy of An Agenda for People, because it's something I think they'd find very, very interesting to read.

I often said before the campaign, "The NDP has no intention of implementing this because there's no strategy, there's no hope, there's no prayer that this kind of stuff can be implemented." Of course, as it turns out, we were right when we suggested they couldn't afford this kind of a promise package. The government now today has backtracked on a series of promises.

What I find really interesting is this: This government in the campaign made all these promises that couldn't be kept. You'd think this government would have learned its lesson: Don't make promises you can't keep. But they haven't. This is the most amazing part. They haven't learned not to make promises you can't keep. Because the general public remembers. They remember when you make a promise to their specific group and they remember when you make a promise to the specific organization they're advocating for.

It takes us back to last Thursday. Last Thursday we're sitting in this House waiting for the pronouncements from

the Treasurer about the transfer payments to the MUSH groups. He made, not more than eight or nine months ago, maybe 10, a promise to all your transfer partners—and I love that term "transfer partners"; everybody is their partner—the municipalities, the universities, the hospitals, all your partners you promised 1%, 2%, 2%.

1630

You see, they made another promise. Here's a government that went through the last campaign with An Agenda for People hanging around its neck like a leaded tire that would carry it beneath the water surface and it still made that promise of 1%, 2% and 2%.

Last Thursday we then got this new "I can't keep my promise" routine. You'd think they would have learned, but they didn't. This is particularly offensive not only to us across the floor but to all those recipients that you've built their hopes up by suggesting they were going to get an increase of 1%, 2% and 2%.

You see, there is some difficulty with no hope. People have a problem with no hope. You know, that's something you want to try and change, but there's only one thing worse than no hope and that's dashed hopes. Dashed hopes are worse, because what happens is that you build up their expectations and you give them the thought that they're going to get increases and you believe they're going to get more money and then you dash their hopes. The government dashed their hopes.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Spend, spend, spend.

Mr Stockwell: The call comes across the floor from the member for Cochrane South, "Spend, spend, spend." You see, that's the point. You still don't get it. Nobody told you to make this promise. Nobody asked you to go forward and tell all these groups in the MUSH sector that they're going to get 1%, 2% and 2%. Nobody held a gun to your heads. You did it of your own free will.

It's not within you to tell the truth. It's just not within them. Nobody asked for that kind of pronouncement. Nobody said, "You should give us the announcements three years hence." You did it on your own, so it's not, "Spend, spend, spend." It was this government making the pronouncement that it was going to give 1%, 2% and 2%.

Mr Bradley: What does Howard Moscoe think? Is Howard Moscoe critical?

Mr Stockwell: The NDP people on local councils, maybe the Howard Moscoes of the world and maybe the Liz Amers and the Barbara Halls of local council, I haven't heard a lot out of them, because of course they're NDPers and they understand your dilemma.

These people aren't saying anything, but there are a lot of people out there who are really concerned. The point I'd like to make is that you've got to stop doing this to yourselves. You're shooting your foot off every time you make an announcement that you can't fulfil, because it's not just no hope, it's dashed hopes.

Mr Bradley: You mean like the dumps?

Mr Stockwell: The dumps are another perfect example. That was pre-election stuff, but that's another perfect example. The worst part about the dump issue, since I've

been reminded about it, is that this government is no further ahead than it was two and a half years ago after the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee announced what dump sites would be allowed.

The Minister of the Environment talks about the member for Durham West, Mr Wiseman, being a great environmentalist. Well, this great environmentalist came to this place when there was only one dump in Whitevale, and this great environmentalist now has five dumps in Whitevale. That makes him a great environmentalist. I would say that would make him a roaring failure.

Mr Bradley: But Martin Mittelstaedt said that's not true.

Mr Stockwell: Yes, we have the Globe and Mail telling us that's not true and maybe we can have a debate about that some day: Mr Mittelstaedt.

This seems to me to be at the very crunch of the issue: This government, led by the Premier and Treasurer, is thoroughly and totally incapable of outlining the exact fiscal position this province is in and how terrible it is out there and why people can't get increases.

He's incapable of it. Why is he incapable of it? I'm not sure, but what happens is that you get a deficit figure that is not accurate, you get a MUSH sector that's being told it's getting increases that it's not getting, you get promises that can't be kept and you get government backbenchers, and the only defence they have is to mouth those words, "Spend, spend spend," when no one asked them to spend a nickel. They shot themselves in the foot.

That, I find, is one of the more interesting things around last Thursday's announcement. They're rather shameful about it, I know, because they skulk around now, really concerned about all those oppressed groups they've put into further debt by their thorough mismanagement and their unbelievable promises that couldn't be kept. They are embarrassed. You know they're embarrassed, because they're hammering the very groups—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: Here's another one. I always love it when the members across the floor tell me I don't know what I'm talking about. Two years ago, when I told the member for Durham West, Mr Wiseman, that he was going to have a dump in his backyard, he said I didn't know what I was talking about. Well, I was wrong. He's got five dumps, not just one.

Mr Bisson: You don't know what you're talking about.

Mr Stockwell: Here's another one from Cochrane telling me I don't know what I'm talking about, when I told him last year the deficit was going to be more than \$9.9 billion. It's amazing how much I've learned in two years if I didn't know what I was talking about.

That's the first thing I would like to impress upon this government.

Mr Bradley: Even the teachers are mad at them.

Mr Stockwell: Even the teachers are mad at them; after all the things you were going to do for teachers.

We are here, and it gives me an opportunity to talk about those groups that aren't getting their funding this year. The last point I'd like to make on this is that they're calling it a 2% increase, which is so misleading. I'd be really ashamed if you backbenchers were going out there trying to tell them they're getting the 2%.

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): What is it then?

Mr Stockwell: I'll fill you in, Mr Hansen, no problem. Let me give the analogy of negotiating with a union. Think about it as if you're negotiating with a union and you're giving them 2% this year as far as your contract negotiations are concerned. They come back the following year—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: You've got to listen up, the member from Cochrane. If you're ever going to learn, you've got to listen up.

You've given them 2% this year and the union comes back the following year and starts to renegotiate its new contract. The first thing they say is, "What kind of increase are we going to get this year?" Of course, if this government was negotiating a union contract, the first thing it would say to the union representatives is, "The 2% we gave you last year we're taking away." They'd be before the board in no time flat for dealing in bad faith.

The member from Cochrane certainly understands that. He must certainly realize that. You can't give them 2% in one year and come back the next and say, "We're taking that back and you're getting no increase." You'd be before the board for negotiating in bad faith. That's exactly what you're doing.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Exactly.

Mr Stockwell: Exactly. You're giving them 2% this year, and next year you're saying, "We're taking it all back." That's not a 2% increase. The member from Cochrane must now understand, and I'm glad to enlighten him on exactly how badly you're ripping off the MUSH sector, and the promises you haven't kept.

That brings me to the other issue I find particularly distressing in this particular debate.

Mr Bradley: Is it Toronto Islands?

Mr Stockwell: The Toronto Islands are one issue that I found very offensive. I find that particularly offensive because we have so many people in this province who are in need of housing, who have no place to go: single mothers, seniors and children who need a place to live. This government's response to that is to send those islanders the biggest, sweetest political kiss you could find.

Mr Bradley: But how did they vote?

Mr Stockwell: My friend asks how they voted. There's no doubt how they voted. That political kiss happens to be to give them a piece of property on the Toronto Islands, in the middle of a park, with all the services, and not charge them for those services, for a buck a day for 100 years.

Mr Bradley: But Richard Johnston recommended this and he's independent.

Mr Stockwell: The independent Mr Johnston recommended it, as is noted.

There's something that bothers me. During these times of tough economic recession, they give 250 islanders one of the sweetest deals a government has ever cut for anybody. They defend this because it's a unique neighbourhood. I dare this government to go out to any neighbourhood in Metropolitan Toronto and find one that doesn't claim to be unique. They're all unique.

Mr Perruzza: No way.

Mr Stockwell: They're all unique, except for the member for Downsview who says "No way." Maybe his riding isn't unique, but all the rest are unique. All the rest would like to have a house built and given to them for a buck a day for 100 years. I think that's offensive. We have this government that made that kind of decision, which I find particularly offensive.

I'm reminded of the issues and promises they made, and that wasn't even a promise they made. That was just a sweetheart deal they gave to 250 predominantly socialist people who happen to live on the islands, who happened to vote overwhelmingly in favour of the government in the last election.

1640

That brings me to one of the most burning issues in this House today, that is, that of John Piper. Mr Piper is someone I've known—

Interjection.

Mr Stockwell: The member from Cochrane is chirping.

Mr Bisson: You don't know what you're talking about.

Mr Stockwell: Well, I'm doing my best to enlighten you. It's very difficult, I know.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. This is not questions and comments. The member for Etobicoke West has the floor.

Mr Stockwell: The Pipergate issue: I think generally the public out there is very concerned about this. The Pipergate issue is of particular importance, I think, because this government is sort of—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, do you wish to address the House?

Mr Stockwell: I'm doing my best. It's just that I don't find this Piper issue very funny. The member from Cochrane's laughing in the corner. I don't particularly find it funny, and I find it really offensive that the NDP government would be laughing about such an important issue, considering what they've said in the past and considering the circumstances surrounding this issue. It's very shameful that this government would sit in this House when the Piper issue is being discussed and laugh. I find it very distressing.

The public out there may be finding out exactly what the NDP is all about. The NDP is no different—in fact, worse in a lot of instances—from every other party. Their idea of fairness, in my opinion, has been etched publicly in my mind for a goodly number of years. I think what has

happened in the Piper affair is simply the public finding out what this government is all about and has been all about for the last number of years: They're no cleaner, they're no fairer, they're no more aboveboard than anyone else; in fact, in some instances, clearly they're worse.

This Piper affair has pointed that out so clearly to the public. It's obvious that what they believe to be an acceptable way to act only depends on one thing, and that's the end: If they accomplish their goals and meet their policies, then whatever is needed is done. "If that means slandering a doctor, that's okay; if that means slandering a victim, then that's okay, because what we need to do is implement our policies and implement our ideas and implement our good for the people, and we know what's best."

I don't know how the backbenchers of this government across the floor can stand the thought that their Premier's office was directly involved, and who knows how many implicated, in such a scurrilous attack on a private citizen.

The problem with this government is that the Premier still doesn't get it. He still doesn't understand that when you're in charge, the buck stops there. The buck stops there when it comes to the Martel affair. The fact is that if the buck stops at the Premier's office, the actions taken by the Premier have direct impact on how the rest of this caucus reacts to and acts in certain situations. Because this Premier allowed one of his cabinet ministers to slander a doctor in Sudbury without any sense of loss of position, it simply meant that it became open season on private citizens in this province, and there's no fear of losing your job.

Whether you want to admit it, whether you like that analogy, that's the analogy that's being used on the streets, in all corners of this province today, because an action such as the one the minister took in slandering that doctor in Sudbury was directly related to Mr Piper pulling the cheap, dirty trick that he did on a victim.

What was particularly enlightening today was when a question was asked of the Premier and the Premier stood up and said, "It just seems very clear to me"—I'm paraphrasing—"that no matter what happens in this government you're going to blame me." That's the trouble. This Premier still doesn't get it. Of course he's to blame, of course it's his responsibility, because the Premier is in charge, the Premier is the boss. The buck stops there, and he still doesn't get it.

In the private sector, when you have a complaint about a retail operator you don't talk to the counter clerk, you talk to the owner, because the buck stops at the owner. If you're dealing with a company, you don't talk to a sales rep, you go to the owner. You write the owner a letter, because the buck stops with the owner. They're in charge. They're the big banana. They're the ones who make the decision, and this Premier still doesn't get it.

By allowing—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. You know, you interfere with the debate and you're annoying the Chair. I would ask you to stop.

Mr Stockwell: When you're at the top and you're the boss and you allow the minister to get away with what she did to that doctor in Sudbury, you are tacitly, indirectly responsible for what took place with Mr Piper and that rag of a story he was trying to sell, because if you don't deal with the issue at hand, you can only end up being responsible for the repercussions that take place, and particularly the Piper affair.

, So in closing—

[Applause]

Mr Stockwell: I understand why the government members are happy, because they don't really want to deal with the reality. They don't want to deal with the reality of what's taking place in the street. They don't want to deal with the truth. They have a natural affliction with dealing with the truth.

They don't want to deal with the truth when it comes to the finances. They don't want to deal with the truth when it comes to the deficit. They don't want to deal with the truth when it comes to transfer payments. They don't want to deal with the Martel affair. They don't want to deal with the Piper affair. The way they're dealing with the Piper affair is to pass it off to the OPP, allow Mr Piper to get back into his office, take whatever's needed out of his office—and then let the OPP look after it. For goodness sake, the Attorney General is trying to defend that. He's certainly no sleuth, because clearly that would be the first thing you do: lock up his office.

So it doesn't shock me that they don't want to hear this, but they're going to hear it.

The people of this province are upset. They can't believe how incompetent this government is, not only with the finances but with its own character and with its own attitude to running a government. They can't believe how incompetent this government is, and as the polls plummet, it's clearly becoming more obvious.

Finally, I noted on the weekend that Mr Rae went to the local party hardworking sorts and started talking about the election in 1995. I want to be clear, the biggest boost this government can give the economy is holding the election before 1995. They should be looking at a 1994 election; if they can move even that up, all the better. They're serving no one by extending the election period as long and far into the future as they can. They're simply writing the death certificate for this province by continuing to talk about a 1995 election. I would only request one thing: Stop that kind of discussion and let's deal with the election in 1994.

[Applause]

Mr Stockwell: The applause comes. I'd be happy to take this under discussion, because I would be more than happy to go back to the people in this province now or in two weeks or in two months, because I'm certain that a goodly number of those members across the floor would not have any prayer of retaining their seats.

Mr Mahoney: I first of all would like to mention what this debate is actually about. While my colleagues are drawn to the Piper affair and to the mismanagement, the incompetence, displayed by the government, and I proba-

bly will get to that as well, I want to point out that this debate surrounds the new rules of doing business in this place, and the reason that we have to extend sitting hours of this Legislature is the incompetence of the government to get its agenda put on the floor.

1650

Mr Bisson: Oh, no.

Mr Mahoney: Well, it does; I'm sorry. As the chief whip for the Liberal Party, I sit in the government House leader meetings. I sit there every Thursday and see how the government House leader attempts to get his agenda through.

They just constantly find themselves having to take one step forward and three back as cabinet minister after cabinet minister gets into hot water, and now of course people senior to the Premier's office do the same thing.

But let me tell the public, Mr Speaker, if I might, through you, that extending the hours—let me just back up. In a normal legislative day, following question period, petitions, introduction of bills and on and on, we get into debate on specific pieces of legislation. That generally happens between 4 o'clock in the afternoon, some days 3:30, depending on whether there are any ministry statements or disruptions during question period, but it's safe to say that around 4 o'clock we get to the legislative business in this place, and so we go from 4 until 6. That's two hours during which debates can take place, four days a week.

Just follow me on that. Extending the hours from 6 till midnight gives us almost three additional legislative days per session. Times four is 12. If you go through the two weeks we'll be sitting—we're scheduled to sit to the Christmas break—it's as many as 24. Call that an exaggeration; call it 20 additional sitting days of the Legislature. The fact of the matter is that this government needs those additional days because of all the incompetence that has occurred.

I just point that out to say that the government has changed the rules to bring in closure. They've limited debate by members in this place to 30 minutes, except for a leadoff speaker in a debate, who can have 90 minutes. They, in effect, have invoked closure by that alone. But then, so that the debate is limited and when it's done they get on with their business, they have cut out the democratic heart of opposition politics in the province of Ontario with these changes. They've shortened the time the House sits, the actual calendar that the House sits. We leave earlier and come back later because they don't want to be here. The Premier doesn't want to be here. The worst record in modern history of a Premier attending in this place is by this Premier, Bob Rae.

Now let me tell you that—

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Downsview.

Mr Mahoney: I'm sorry that it gets everyone excited.

Mr Perruzza: Mr Speaker, I've referred to the rules. I don't see anything in the rules that specifically says that when you're in the Legislature, when you're in this chamber, you have to be awake and alert. I know that some of my Liberal friends may not be.

The Deputy Speaker: Please.

Mr Mahoney: That member is becoming an irritant, I think, even to his own caucus, from some of the silly remarks.

I want to just go, if I can, for a moment to what I consider to be the real problem of what's been referred to as the Piper affair or any of the other—I mean, look at the pictures in the paper. There they are, eight of them, the scandals that this government has had to endure. But I want to deal with the real problem, and I think it came out last week—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Mississauga South, the member for Etobicoke West, the member for Downsview, would you please take your seats.

Mr Mahoney: Go to your room.

I want to go back to question period when the member for Willowdale, in the Conservative caucus, asked a question of the Premier with regard to the Piper affair. In essence, out of Hansard, the basic question he was asking had to do with the fact that Mr Piper resigned on Friday and was allowed, with a phone call, to come back in on Sunday evening. As a result, Mr Harnick, the member for Willowdale, said, and I quote from Hansard: "I put it to you, Premier, that somebody in your office is guilty of obstructing justice if that's what happened. I put it to you that this investigation had better deal with that aspect."

Now, the Premier got all excited because the member for Willowdale had the temerity, the nerve, the courage to actually suggest to the Premier that because Mr Piper was allowed to come back into his office, two days after he resigned, with the assistance of one of the staff members of the Premier's office, there is a possibility that someone in the Premier's office is interfering with due process of justice in this province. And what did the Premier say? The Premier went on to say: "The member has just made an allegation. I'm sure there'll be lots more"—etc, etc—"I say to the honourable member, you know how to do it." Then he says, and these three words underline to me the lack of integrity and the intimidation tactics of this Premier: "Say it outside."

Here is an honourable member of the opposition party, the critic in that area, suggesting that if certain events took place with regard to the boxes and the personal information being removed by Mr Piper with no one other than a member of the Premier's staff—no police in attendance, no one from the Attorney General's office in attendance. Yet on Monday morning an investigation was ordered to be commenced and to start on Monday morning into the Piper affair and what does he do? He goes back into his office on Sunday night, loads up his boxes with whatever; we have no idea. Somebody suggested today he might have had time to adjust the computer records in his office. We don't know if he did or he didn't, but what we do know is that the police investigation was to begin on Monday morning and on Sunday night, two days after he resigned in disgrace, this man was allowed to go into the office.

Everybody shouts about government having scandals. Other governments have scandal. We had a few problems when we were in government and I acknowledge that. It's how you deal with those. When we had a senior staff person who was accused of wrongdoing, let me tell you, within one hour of his resignation that office was sealed and no one was allowed in or out—I assume they were all out. No one was allowed back into that office to clean up his personal papers. No one was allowed in to perhaps tamper with the computer records. It's how you deal with it. Let me add that under that investigation there were never charges or convictions.

Now we have a situation where a police investigation is going to take place into one of the most serious allegations this government has had to face. We have a member of the opposition suggesting, I suggest quite fairly, to the Premier that due to the circumstances it is entirely possible that someone is guilty, to use the words in Hansard, of obstructing justice. And what does the Premier say? The Premier, like the bully he is, says, "Step outside and say that." You see, that's the mentality, that's the attitude of this Premier. No one in this place knows that this Premier is not a boy scout, nobody knows it better than I know it. Nobody in this place knows that this Premier will stoop to any level to try to smear the reputation of either a member of the opposition, a member of his own party if he has to, or a member of the public. If, in fact, it is seen in his twisted logic to be good enough for Bob Rae then he'll do it. And don't any of you ever doubt that, because if you need to be sacrificed—to the members in the back bench—you will be sacrificed.

If you are fortunate enough, however, to have someone in your background who has some kind of magical influence, such as Elie Martel, then maybe you'll survive. You see, we don't understand the double standard. We don't understand how the Premier can sit there with justification and protect a minister who took a lie detector test to prove she was lying when she said things that would slander a doctor from northern Ontario. He protects that minister, and then on the other hand, he hangs another minister out to dry because he appeared as a Sunshine Boy. The standards are all over the map. The Premier's action, in trying to intimidate members of this House, is to demand that somebody repeat his allegations outside. I would be happy to.

1700

Mr Morrow: You did.

Mr Mahoney: You're darned right. I drew him outside and I made him retract. I made that man apologize because he told a lie about me and my family, and I will not tolerate that. No one in this place should have to tolerate that kind of behaviour.

That was your boy scout over there, folks. That was your white knight who stands up now and says, "Oh, I've never seen a government come under greater scrutiny than our government." What a load of nonsense. This government is creating the need for scrutiny. This government, through its incompetence and its mismanagement and its trickery, is creating the need for opposition parties to be

more vigilant than ever, for the press to be more vigilant than ever and for the public at large to look at you with close scrutiny and to say, "This government is dishonest."

If this government is dishonest, there is only one conclusion that you can arrive at, and that is that the leadership of this government is patently dishonest. I suggest that the attempts to intimidate—

The Deputy Speaker: Your choice of words is a bit too forceful. I don't accept it and I know you don't either, so I ask you to withdraw it.

Mr Mahoney: In respect to you, Mr Speaker, I will withdraw the word "dishonest" and suggest to you that I believe the leader of this government is not being forthright with the people and is attempting to come forward and intimidate and muzzle opposition members by demanding the member go outside.

Do you know what happened? That member, I might tell you, was indeed worried about the impact and therefore did not repeat what he said outside. I find that offensive, because what he said was that if indeed items were removed from Mr Piper's office that should not have been removed, then someone in the Premier's office could be complicit in interfering with the process of justice. It could be, and he should have said it outside.

While I'm not a lawyer, it would be my stand to say it again, and I would be pleased to say it again, because I truly believe that what we have seen here is a Premier who, through lack of action, has created a sense in the province that there is indeed some dishonesty. I don't like that word any more than you, sir, but he has created that sense, that fear. Who can be happy if indeed he fears that there is any dishonesty in government? Yet we hear nothing but pontificating from this Premier about how they would be different. They're not only not different, they're worse by a long shot.

Mrs Marland: There has to be some irony to stand in this House today and speak to a motion that is extending the sitting hours. The reason it's so ironical is that this government decided to extend the out-of-session hours earlier this year. Instead of coming back at a certain date in March, at the end of that sessional break, this government recalled this House two weeks later. Isn't that rather interesting?

It's also rather interesting, I suggest, that this government, when it introduced its new House rules as to how this House, this chamber, would operate, also—primarily, of course, we realize it introduced those rules to shorten the amount of time the opposition parties had to debate government legislation to the extent that, of course, it was really shutting down the role of opposition almost entirely. The fact that we now have very strong limits on the amount of time we can speak and the number of speakers we can have and so forth, that's all part of the new rules. At the same time, the government introduced a new calendar which, overall, shortened the amount of time the House will sit.

I think, as some of my colleagues have already mentioned, we understand very well why the government would bring in those changes.

First of all, they don't want to be accountable to the people of this province. They don't want to permit the opposition parties to have the opportunity to ask them questions in question period more often than they have to. They want to try to avoid that show-and-tell that sometimes question period can be. Of course, very often, especially with this current government, we ask the questions; we certainly do not get the answers. But at least by asking the questions we are able to raise the concerns the people in this province have about the issues, and that's part of a parliamentary system.

We doubt very much whether this government in fact believes in the parliamentary system at all. We doubt very much, to be quite frank, whether this government has any respect for the parliamentary system and the parliamentary traditions of this chamber and this province. We are faced every day with examples of where this government fails absolutely to recognize that there is tradition, that there is integrity, and that there is honesty in the operation of a parliamentary system that has its history and its roots in the province of Ontario.

People laugh occasionally when we refer to the fact that certainly the Progressive Conservative Party was the government in this province for 42 years. Now, of course, in the past seven years that I've been here, the people of Ontario have been able to experience the other two brand Xs as government. They've had five years of Liberal government, and by the time this government has the courage to call the next election, we probably will have had another five years of NDP government.

The interesting thing is that in recollection of 42 years of Progressive Conservative government in this province, I have to say that it wasn't all bad. Certainly, our party made some mistakes when we were the government, and wasn't that inevitable? First of all, we are human, and second, we were the government for 42 years. But whatever mistakes we made, they were nothing in comparison with the direction this current government is taking this province. We built this province of Ontario to become the premier province in Canada, and the reason that happened was because we believed in putting the people first.

We never, ever, would have imagined in the history of this province that we would have had 4,000 people outside this chamber on the front lawns of Queen's Park last Thursday at noon—a lot of those people with physical disabilities, in wheelchairs, some people who couldn't walk, some people who couldn't communicate because of their developmental disabilities. Who would ever in 125 years' history of this province have ever thought for one moment that those people, their families, their workers, their friends, their relatives, would have had to come and march on Queen's Park? The most frail, the most vulnerable people in our society had to march on Queen's Park to demonstrate 4,000 strong on the lawns out on the front of this chamber.

That tells you, in my opinion, how far in the other direction the Bob Rae socialist government has fallen, how far it has moved itself from its promises. They always said they were the party of compassion. Well, I want to tell you

that no party can ever again say they're the party of compassion and call themselves the New Democratic Party.

They are the people who don't even have a clue when it comes to prioritizing. Sure, we all recognize we are in recession times. There isn't a money tree at Queen's Park; times are tough. But it isn't that there isn't any money at Queen's Park; it's simply that the Bob Rae socialists do not know how to prioritize in terms of human need.

They could stand on any public platform anywhere in this province today and defend spending money first, at the top of the list, on the most frail and vulnerable people in our society. We all agree with that. Yet their cutbacks have hit those same vulnerable, frail people. I think the issue of the community living association's rally here last Thursday with these 4,000-plus people says more than anything else about the Bob Rae socialist government.

We can talk about all our other concerns with them. We can talk about the labour law reform and we can look at this list of legislation that they now want to ram through in the next eight sitting days of this House, which is necessitating sitting to the evening. Personally, I want to say I wouldn't mind sitting through the night if it meant we could get some solutions to the problems of these people who had to come to Queen's Park last Thursday, but it wouldn't matter if we sat around the clock with this government. They cannot make their commitment to the people who need their help the most.

When I look at the legislation they are hoping to have second reading on before the end of next week, we have long-term care and we have the advocacy bills: these advocacy bills that this government has done such an impossibly shoddy job of drafting that it has already had over 200 amendments, plus another 100 at the committee of the whole stage. We're talking about bills that were so badly written that they needed 300 amendments. There is something very wrong, and I think it's a sad day for this province.

We can talk about all the resignations of the cabinet and all that horrible stuff that has been referred to earlier this afternoon that I don't wish to comment on, because that stuff will come and go. But the people who need their help the most, the frail and vulnerable people in our society who were out here last Thursday, need their help every single minute of every day.

I simply say in closing because, again, I'm limited in the amount of time I can speak, would this government please, once and for all, prioritize in terms of human need first.

The Deputy Speaker: The time has expired. Mrs Coppen has moved government notice of motion number 21, pursuant to standing order 6(b):

That, notwithstanding standing order 9, the House shall continue to meet from 6 pm to 12 midnight on November 30, December 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1992, at which time the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion, until the next sessional day.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 15-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 1714 to 1729.

The Deputy Speaker: Mrs Coppen has moved, on behalf of Mr Cooke, government notice of motion number 21.

All those in favour of the motion will please rise one at a time.

Ayes

Abel, Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The Deputy Speaker: All those opposed to the motion will please rise one at a time.

Nays

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Chiarelli, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Eves, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harnick, Harris, Henderson, Jackson, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, McGuinty, McLean, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Poole, Ruprecht, Sola, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): Mr Speaker, the ayes are 61 and the nays 33.

The Deputy Speaker: The ayes are 61; the nays are 33. I declare the motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for York East, you have the floor.

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I've wrapped up, and I'd like to hear some response.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other persons who wish to participate in this debate? There is so much noise, I can't hear a thing. Are there any questions or comments?

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Following the remarks by the member for York East, I would like to know how this member is able to rationalize his position. As I read his remarks and listened to him the other day, he sounds as if he's someone who's opposed to market value assessment. I wonder how he is sitting in the New Democratic caucus and advising the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs on how they're going to settle on this bill. Is he going to vote against it? That would give me an indication of what his true position is.

Because you can't have it both ways. You can come along on one side and say there should be some kind of economic study, and he goes on to say there should be an economic analysis. There hasn't been with this bill and he's saying there should be. Why doesn't he then call upon the minister to postpone the introduction of this bill until there has been a full economic analysis?

I then hear him talking about how seniors in his riding are impacted if you have full market value assessment. If that's the case, what about seniors in other ridings who are also going to have very heavy increases? I'm glad he's interested in seniors. I happen to know the honourable member as being one who has a genuine interest and concern for the care of all people. I don't think he can vote on this bill the way it is with the kind of opinions he's expressed.

What I'd really like to know is whether the member is strongly opposed or weakly opposed, whether he is so opposed that he can still vote for it and yet retain his NDP membership. There is a sense here that he wants to be all things to all people. What it really comes down to is, how can he vote for this bill based on what he said?

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I am delighted to hear that the member for York East is going to oppose this legislation. In line with what the member for Markham has indicated, he certainly has a good point. What we'd like to know today is, how will the member for York East define his opposition to this bill? Will he, like other members, abstain from voting? Will he, like other members, stand up and let his vote be counted? What will he do to oppose this legislation?

I think the member for York East is quite right when he points out that economic rot will set in within the city boundaries when this bill has been proclaimed and passed. In addition, I had hoped that he would especially have expanded a bit on the limiting problems of the caps in some areas of land use. For instance, he knows full well that there are certain classes of properties that will not have secure caps on them, meaning that certain areas that have no houses or apartment buildings on them—empty land—will now triple in tax. Some of the people who are

going to want to expand and enhance that property will obviously be unable to do it with that kind of tax structure.

I had hoped that the member for York East would have expanded a bit on these kinds of caps and limits on these caps. But I want to congratulate him that he comes out, appears here today and says he is opposed to this kind of market value reassessment.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): The member for York East has clearly made an excellent political speech, because it's obvious that nobody knows what his position is. The member for Parkdale is suggesting he's opposing it. I spoke with the member for Markham in front of me, and I got the impression he was in favour of it. If the members of the House are confused, then his constituents must be absolutely—

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): Utterly confused.

Mr Stockwell: Well, dazzled with his brilliance.

This time has been set aside so members may stand up and issue their specific concerns or positive notes about this piece of legislation, and I think it's incumbent on the member for York East to be very clear. Rather than taking up a significant amount of time in your speech, if you haven't made up your mind, then say you haven't made up your mind.

In his two-minute response, the question I have is very simple; direct and straight to the point and something I am certain his constituents would like to know: Are you in favour of this piece of legislation or are you opposed? If you're in favour, I can understand why you're in favour, and if you're opposed, I understand there could be reasons for being opposed. But for goodness' sake, the least you could do for your people in the democratic process is tell them where you stand.

I know full well that in your riding—I know it well—a lot of people are going to get reductions and a lot of people are going to get increases, and that's going to make it very difficult for you to make a decision. I understand that very well, knowing the mayor of East York and the members who represent East York council. But the fact remains that it's incumbent on you to tell the people in your riding where you stand so they may know how to vote next election if they consider this to be a very important issue.

The Deputy Speaker: Further questions or comments?

1740

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I listened to the member for York East's speech the other day. Unfortunately, it's not very clear to the opposition but maybe if they'd pay a little bit closer attention, I think what the member tried to describe in his speech is that this issue, from either side, when you take a look at it, has some fairly strong arguments. I think the member for York East has expressed within this caucus his feelings, which he'll make clear when he has an opportunity to do so in his two-minute response.

But what he was trying to say, and I think what we have to take a look at, is that there are two sides to this issue that are very strong, depending whereabouts within the city of Toronto you happen to live. The reality is that

it's awful easy for someone in the opposition to take either side on an issue because they're not responsible to anybody but themselves. Let the member for York East respond for himself.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for York East, you have two minutes to reply.

Mr Malkowski: It's been a pleasure to hear the response of the opposition members, the member for Markham and the members for Parkdale and Etobicoke West. As they talk, I want to be direct with them. I've brought the concerns of the people of my riding and also of the people of Metro because the government of Metro has failed to have any economic or social impact studies. That's the responsibility of a Metro government and it is truly a Metro issue. I believe that I have been direct and that the people of my riding recognize, it's very clear, that the tax system as it stands is unfair.

My role, as I said in the election, was to represent the concerns of the people of my riding and that's what I'm doing. I believe that this is a Metro issue and my position is very clear. I'm totally against full market value assessment and that's all I have to say on it. I'm very clear about that. It's going to have impact on my senior citizens, on single parents who live in my riding.

There is a lot of confusion among the public out there. You know, opposition parties and other governments blaming each other, I don't believe that's helpful. Let's be clear about it. Let's have less misunderstanding. Let's have some accountability, especially at the Metro level, this is its plan, and let's look for a fairer tax system for everyone.

Most importantly, I think we have to be aware that this government at least is looking at proper and fair tax reform, the disentanglement process, all those things that we're dealing with, education, all the proper things that we're doing to clean up the system and we'd like some cooperation from other levels of government on.

People of my riding know where I stand. I believe that Metro has total responsibility for its own plan and I'm here to bring and share the concerns of the people of my riding who elected me. I'm very clear: I'm totally opposed to market value assessment. That's clear.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just want to be sure that the member understood the question. The question was, "How are you voting on this legislation?" Just curious.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your chair.
Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: If you have a point of order, I haven't heard you at all.

Mr Stockwell: I was just wanting to make sure that the member understood the question was, "How are you voting on this piece of legislation," and he didn't answer.

The Deputy Speaker: That's not a point of order. This is not a point of order.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Ruprecht: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: We appreciated the remarks that were made, but does that mean he's going to be here voting against this bill?

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Oriole, you have the floor.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I'm pleased to rise today and participate in this debate on the legislation the NDP government has placed before this House that will permit Metropolitan Toronto to implement its plan for the reassessment of property taxes in Metropolitan Toronto.

As a member of North York council—I was elected in 1978. The issue of fairer property taxes, the issue of property tax reform, had been discussed in this council for many years. That's the city of North York council. From 1978, when I was elected to this council, I was a participant in numerous debates at that local level. The reason that I was a participant in those debates—and I felt very passionately, Mr Speaker, and I know that you're interested in that—the reason that I discussed those debates, those issues, those questions at the municipal council level was that it was in the mid-1970s that the Conservative provincial government gave to the municipalities the right to reassess, to redefine, to change their property tax system to make it fairer. They did this under the legislation by what was called section 63. Across this province, municipalities began in the mid-1970s to try to make sure that their property tax system was as fair as it could be.

Let me tell you what the situation was in the city of North York at that time. We had a situation where people in North York—this is just within the boundaries of the city of North York—who were living in older homes were paying a very small amount in their property taxes when you compared it to people who were living in newer homes even though those two homes may have been of equal market value. The way that the property tax system had evolved and developed over the years was that it often depended on the number of square feet in your home, the number of rooms, whether your basement was finished, how many bathrooms you had, if you had one or two kitchens, and that benchmark for assessment had not changed in many years.

When we at the local council, having been given the responsibility to see if people were paying their fair share, discussed and researched and looked into many ways of making that property tax system fairer, one of the things that we discovered was that there was no benchmark that satisfied everyone. What seemed to be developing as a consensus—I would stress it wasn't unanimous—was that what was fair was to use the benchmark or the ruler, if you will, or the guideline of how much that home was worth in the open market, and we started to call that benchmark market value.

What happened when the provincial government gave the responsibility to the regional municipality—and I want to clarify that the responsibility was not given to the individual municipality. It was not given to the city of North York or Scarborough or Etobicoke or East York or the city of Toronto. That responsibility was given to the council of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and every other

regional government across this province. They were given the responsibility under the legislation to look at reassessment, reform of property taxes.

In many municipalities, as they proceeded under section 63, they developed plans, and often the province intervened in one way or another to assist them, as our Liberal government did in Sudbury. Often the provincial government did not intervene in any way but allowed the municipality, because it had the responsibility and the authority, to move forward to implement its plan and then those municipal councillors, those regional councillors, stand fully accountable and are judged by their constituents every three years in municipal elections to determine whether or not what they have done has achieved the fairness and the reform that is appropriate in that community.

I believe that this explanation of some of the history is important because many people are confused as to who has the responsibility and historically what happened in this issue of property tax reform. One of the concerns that I have is that it's important for people to understand this history and to know clearly who has responsibility for what.

1750

One of the problems we have in Metropolitan Toronto is that the Metropolitan Toronto council was not given the authority many other municipalities already had, which would have allowed it to implement its plan for tax reform, because it is the municipalities that have responsibility for property tax. They are the ones who levy the mill rate and collect the property taxes both for themselves and for the local school boards.

It is the regional councils, in this case the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, that have the responsibility, and yet they do not have the legislative authority. Over the years, certainly since I was on North York council starting in 1978 and continuing until 1985, the debate over how to reform property taxes to make them fairer was the great debate.

What I found was that it often depended on where you lived. Those people who lived in a part of North York that was going to benefit rather liked market value assessment, or they liked property tax reform by whatever name it was going to be given, and those people who lived in a part of North York that was not going to benefit under the plan, even though they may have been paying more than their fair share for many years, didn't like the plan.

What happened was that when the regional municipalities began to look at this, what they said was: "You know, we all live in Metropolitan Toronto, whether it is North York or the city of Toronto or Scarborough or Etobicoke or East York or York. When we travel and leave this great municipality and people ask us where we're from, most of us say we're from Toronto." So it became important to have equity within and fairness within and reform within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto. The debate went from North York council and the councils of the partners of the federation of Metropolitan Toronto to Metro council, and it had been working for many years to develop a plan that would reform property taxes.

Mr Speaker, 80% of my constituents, over 80% of the people who live in Oriole riding, will benefit from the plan Metropolitan Toronto has put forward to the provincial government. This legislation which is before us today, Bill 94, would result in a benefit to over 80% of my constituents.

The problem is this: Any plan that would bring property tax reform, any plan that would bring greater fairness within Metropolitan Toronto, would be a benefit to the overwhelming majority, well over 80% of my constituents. This particular plan is but one small step on the road to fairness, because it has many parts to it and it is very complicated, but it does not achieve as quickly as many of my constituents would like the kind of fairness and the kind of reform they have been seeking and waiting for, for a long time.

They are very concerned because they have listened to what this NDP provincial government has had to say, and they've looked at the piece of legislation. I've had conversations with my constituents as they've asked me: "What does this mean? Does this mean that we're going to have fairness in Metropolitan Toronto?" The answer I have had to give them is: "This does not do everything that you had hoped it would do."

This plan, as put forward, is Metropolitan Toronto's plan. It is not a perfect plan. It contains many compromises. Many people who should be getting greater increases are not going to be getting them as quickly as many of my constituents feel they should, but they understand the need to phase things in. Similarly, many people who should be getting decreases will not be getting those decreases as quickly as they would like to get them. They're a little less understanding about that, because quite frankly, they feel that they have been paying their fair share—more than their fair share—for a long, long time.

But we are not here in this Legislature to debate the plan. It is Metropolitan Toronto's plan. There is nothing we can do within the legislation that has been brought forward by the NDP to change that plan. That's where my constituents are confused, and frankly, many of them are feeling deceived. They're feeling deceived because they hear the government say things like: "We are opposed to full market value assessment. We are not going to permit Metropolitan Toronto to do that in five years." On the other hand, they see this legislation which enables Metropolitan Toronto to move ahead with its plan without any interference in Metropolitan Toronto's plan. They don't understand how the provincial government can say one thing and do another. Maybe I'm not expressing it well, Mr Speaker.

What they're really saying is, "Here's another example of the NDP doing one thing and saying another." The people in the riding of Oriole who I talked to about this particular piece of legislation feel it is very deceptive. They feel that they are hearing from this government that it believes in fairness. How many times do we hear Premier Bob Rae say: "It isn't fair. We want fairness"? They look at this plan, they hear what the NDP has to say, they see this legislation, and they say, "Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario, is saying one thing and doing something very different."

They are disappointed, they are upset and they feel in many ways betrayed. Many of them believed, especially

when the NDP government established the tax commission, which they called the Fair Tax Commission—I don't call it the Fair Tax Commission any more; I call it the tax commission, because I don't believe this NDP government believes in fair. I don't think it understands that you can't say one thing to people and do something different and expect that people will either believe you or believe that you have been fair with them and to them.

So this legislation is before us. We have the government telling us what it's going to do in five years. I can tell you that the constituents in the riding of Oriole are determined to see to it that the government in five years is not the government of Bob Rae, is not the NDP government. They are determined that five years from today they will have a government in place in the province of Ontario that is responsive, that is open, that is willing to listen to people, that will be fiscally responsible and make good decisions, that will understand the issues of the day and not approach them with an ideology that is destructive. But mostly they want a government that will tell them what it's going to do and then proceed to do what it said it was going to do, or explain fully and honestly why it has had to change its mind.

1800

Part of the problem with this NDP government and with the government of Bob Rae is that it has not done any of that. They have not explained to people why they changed their minds; they have not explained to people why they are acting unfairly; they have not explained to people why they have abandoned their principles; they have not explained to people that they are wedded to their ideology and determined to damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead, regardless of whether it is fair or unfair.

While on the one hand they say, "We are not going to let Metropolitan Toronto do full market value assessment in five years," this piece of legislation permits Metropolitan Toronto to implement its plan today. The obfuscation, the muddying of the waters of the communication strategy of the spin doctors of the NDP has done nothing to instil confidence in the people of Ontario, nothing to reduce the cynicism we see every day because the people and the people in Oriole are terribly disappointed when they hear Premier Bob Rae and his ministers say one thing when they know they may not be here in five years; when they know that their utterances are often for partisan, political purposes rather than fairness, truth and clarity for the people of this province.

I have great difficulty with Bill 94 because under this bill my constituents will have one small step improvement towards property tax reform and fairness, but this bill gives Metropolitan Toronto the right to implement a plan that does not achieve property tax reform and fairness in total for my constituents. I don't want them to be deceived. I want them to understand. Metro made some very difficult decisions.

Metropolitan Toronto Councillor Joan King, the representative for a good portion of my riding, has spoken eloquently on their behalf at Metro council and is very supportive of Metropolitan Toronto's plan. Councillor Marie Labatte, who also represents a very significant portion, a

number of residents in the riding of Oriole, has represented her point of view on Metropolitan Toronto council and she has been opposed to the development and the implementation of the plan. So of the two councillors representing my riding one is in support of Metro's plan and the other is not supportive of Metro's plan.

Again, when I speak to my constituents about this, I say to them, "It's very important for you to call your Metro councillor and find out what the impact will be for you and see if you can have explained to you the impact of the plan and how it's going to work so you understand fully what the implications will be for you next year."

The concern I have is that this NDP government, this government under the leadership of Premier Bob Rae, has repeatedly stated that this legislation gives to Metropolitan Toronto the same power that every other municipality already has and there have been reassurances and repeated assurances that the decision to implement market value assessment is Metro's decision alone. We've heard that from speaker after speaker.

Yet despite the assurances that implementation of property tax reform is Metro's decision and that the province was simply going to empower or enable Metropolitan Toronto to implement its plan by giving it the same authority to implement market value assessment as already exists across the province, there are a number of elements in Metro's plan that are different than what has happened elsewhere in the province. Therefore, this enabling legislation is precedent setting. Nobody from that side, from the government benches, from the government caucus, has said that clearly to the people of this province.

The member from Cochrane goes like this, like "Who cares?" I care. My constituents care. We care if you're setting precedents and we care if you're doing that, especially if you're not telling people that you're doing this. I find it shocking that the member would sit opposite and shrug as though he doesn't care that this is precedent-setting legislation.

There are a number of people in this House who have a great deal of knowledge of the history of Metropolitan Toronto, many who know how important and controversial the discussions of property tax reform have been. If the province doesn't like Metropolitan Toronto's plan, it doesn't have to give Metropolitan Toronto the power to implement that plan. If the province wants to change Metropolitan Toronto's plan, by legislation it could do that.

I want to be clearly on the record as a former municipal alderman. I don't think the province should take either of those powers. It is my view that Metropolitan Toronto council, with a budget of almost \$4 billion annually and elected representatives who are directly accountable to their constituents, should have the responsibility, the authority and the power to have fairness in its property tax system. I believe that Metropolitan Toronto councillors are reasonable, mature people and I believe that Metropolitan Toronto council should have the same powers that every other municipality in the province has.

What upsets me is that you have on the one hand the province saying, "We're giving them the power," and on

the other hand you have the province saying, "But in five years we may not let them do these things." That is a sham. That is a shameful thing for this government to be saying and doing, because all it does is confuse the electorate.

On principle, this government could, and in my view should, be saying, "We believe that Metropolitan Toronto council has the right and the responsibility and should have the authority to adjust its property tax system to achieve greater fairness." They should be able to do that, and it should be within their authority and responsibility. The legislation, in my view, should simply give them the power to do that.

The provincial government is not and should not be Big Brother. As a former municipal councillor, I believe very strongly in local autonomy, local control, local responsibility and local accountability. I believe that those who are responsible for setting the plan should be accountable for the plan that they have put forward to the people who will judge them at election time. That is the essence of our democracy.

For the province to confuse that issue is disgraceful. For the province to act contrary to those basic democratic principles, in my view, does not do justice either to the members of the municipal council of Metropolitan Toronto or to any of the federations which are part of that regional government or in fact to the property taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto.

I have one last thing I'd like to say. I'm very disappointed that this NDP government is forcing a vote tonight at 9 pm. I'm disappointed because by extending the hours, they have made it impossible for me to be here for the vote. I would like to be on the record. I've made a commitment to speak in my riding, in the city of North York, and I'll be in the middle of a speech.

I want to be on the record that I will be and would be voting in support of this legislation, because even as flawed as it is—many members rightly will be voting against it; it is flawed legislation—over 80% of my con-

stituents will benefit to some degree. As their representative, I believe in representative democracy. This legislation allows Metropolitan Toronto to take one very small step to get on with it.

As far as I'm concerned, this legislation doesn't do what I think it should do. It's not the way I would have suggested moving forward. I would have given Metropolitan Toronto council the power and had the province stay out of the debate on the actual plan. I would have said it is the business of Metropolitan Toronto council to do that.

Over 80% of my constituents will benefit under any plan that moves to greater fairness. They will benefit somewhat, not fully, under this plan, and I will be supporting this legislation. I want to say, however, in my final summation, that this legislation is a great disappointment. My constituents are very disappointed in Bob Rae. They are very concerned that this legislation does not do what it is purported to do.

I would also suggest that my constituents would like to have seen an impact analysis. The reason for that impact analysis of this plan is that they have heard a lot of rhetoric from people living in different places and they honestly don't know what the result is going to be.

For those who have grave concerns about the legislation, I want them to know that I understand. For my constituents in the riding of Oriole who say, "We have been paying more than our fair share for too long," any step towards greater fairness is a benefit to them.

As I yield the floor to the next person interested in participating in the debate, I would say to the government: Please be clear in the future. Do what you say you're going to do. Tell people exactly what your powers are, what your principles are and how it is that you're going to proceed. That's the only way you will deal with the disappointment the people have in all of us and the cynicism that is pervasive in this province.

[Report continues in volume B]

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative, adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Etobicoke-Humber | Henderson, D. James | L | |
| Etobicoke-Rexdale | Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest | Stockwell, Chris | PC | |
| Fort William | McLeod, Lyn | L | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition |
| Fort York | Marchese, Rosario | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey | Murdoch, Bill | PC | |
| Guelph | Fletcher, Derek | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre | Sullivan, Barbara | L | |
| Halton North/-Nord | Duignan, Noel | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels |
| Hamilton East/-Est | Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail |
| Hamilton Mountain | Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND | Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora | Miclash, Frank | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Kingston and The Islands/ | Wilson, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Kingston et Les Îles | | | |
| Kitchener | Ferguson, Will | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew | Jordan, W. Leo | PC | |
| Lawrence | Cordiano, Joseph | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| St. George-St. David Sarnia | Vacant Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Larry O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

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Monday 30 November 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 30 novembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 30 November 1992

[Report continued from volume A]

1815

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

Continuing the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I'd like to comment on one or two points by the member for Oriole. First of all, I sympathize with the member that sometimes it's impossible to be here for a vote when it's scheduled at 9 o'clock. That certainly isn't your fault, and I hope the people who are watching this understand that. As one who lives in a neighbouring riding almost, I appreciate the fact that that's the very kind of problem many of us have when things are planned as poorly as they are by this government. I'll be talking about that, because I'll be speaking on it shortly.

That's a compliment for member for Oriole; now I get to the other side. As one who has served on council and has had the local touch for a long time, one would have thought there was something you could have done then to resolve some of the inequities that are now facing many people within the greater Toronto area, which has brought forward these recommendations that are before the House. So the fact is that you have had many opportunities in previous incarnations, one as a councillor and the second as a former member of the Peterson government, when there would have been an opportunity for you to do something right or better than what the New Democrats are doing.

I would like to have you, as one of the spokespeople of the past, give some kind of rationale for why it is that you didn't do anything specific to address these concerns when you had an opportunity in the Peterson government, and second, why it is that when you were a local councillor you didn't come forward with specific recommendations.

If you did, this is your opportunity to have a fine defence. I won't have a chance to react to your comment in an appropriate way here in the House, but at least it will go on the record so that we have a sense of where you stand. There have been so many attempts at market value reassessment and it would be interesting to know where this member, who can go back a little bit more in her history in this way and tell us more about herself and her involvement in this issue—

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Thank you. The honourable member for Downsview.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Thank you very much for this opportunity to respond, in the two minutes I have, to some of the points that were made by my colleague from North York.

We heard and we listened to the classic Liberal doubletalk on this issue. We've had nothing but doubletalk on this ever since I can remember, both as a local member and now as a member of this Legislature: doubletalk here, doubletalk out in the community, doubletalk in the media.

My Liberal friend comes here today and says: "I'm going to support this because this is going to be a small step towards some property tax reform in Metro. However, this government is misguided in its attempt. One of my local Metro councillors, Joan King, voted yes, and she should be rewarded. One of my local Metro councillors, Marie Labatte, voted against. I don't know what should happen to Marie Labatte." Maybe Marie Labatte isn't going to get the Hansard from the member for Oriole.

But I can tell you this: The member for Oriole talked about fairness on this issue and talked about justice on this issue. Justice and fairness? Where was justice and fairness when they played political ping-pong with market value? They pinged it here and they pinged it there. They pinged it all the way back to Metro and didn't make a decision—no, no. Now we get criticized, but one of the inner cabinet ministers in the former Peterson government played ping-pong.

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I listened to the comments by the member for Oriole quite attentively. I want to congratulate her on her thoughtfulness, but at the same time I wish she had expanded a bit more on her presentation, especially the comment she made in regard to the minister, when the minister stood up in this House and said that on the one hand, "I think Metro should have the right to introduce market value assessment," and on the other hand he then stood up and in the next breath—I hope the member for Downsview listens carefully, because this is doubletalk—then said, "But I'm not sure we can trust Metro council with this specific issue."

If we want to talk about doubletalk here, that is the most classic example. But that's not what I want to address here.

Let me just get one more point in. All of you will remember, especially my friends from the Progressive

Conservative Party, a former member here. His name was Bill Davis.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Who?

Mr Ruprecht: Bill Davis; you remember him. I want to tell you, my friends, what Bill Davis says about this issue. Bill Davis has no benefits from this whatsoever, at least that's what I think; I'm not sure, but that's what I think. Bill Davis comes from a place called Brampton. Brampton is not in Metro Toronto, and consequently we can expect that in his position he would be a somewhat impartial judge as to whether this is effective or not. And Bill Davis says, my friends: "Our association does not oppose the current market value assessment provided that the proposal is fair and equitable to all parties. However, in our opinion," he says, "the revised reassessment proposal approved last week by Metro is neither fair nor equitable." He says: "Why? The 10% solution for reassessment simply delays the inevitable consequences of higher taxes."

The Acting Speaker: Okay, thank you. The honourable member has used up his time.

1820

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I want to use my two minutes to relay some of the concerns that have been raised by the member for Oriole and expound on them, because I think her remarks were very forthright. I'm glad to see that she stood up and committed herself in no uncertain terms on how she feels and how she would intend to vote if she had been here.

It's unfortunate that the vote is called at 9 tonight. Most of us didn't know it was at 9 tonight, so there will be a lot of members who won't be here for the vote who would have loved to have been here.

With her municipal experience she has put a little different light on than some of the other members in this House have done, and I think it's good. I've been through some 15, 16 years of municipal politics and I realized what happened with regard to market value assessment in small-town Ontario and in cities in Ontario.

When the member for Oriole speaks about the confusion that's in this bill, it is so true. In five years' time, when she's talking about, what may happen then? Are they going to vote then? Maybe there will be no vote then. With the confusion in the bill, it's a great concern to many of the people.

I think this has been handled so badly by Metro and many other councils. Here we are dealing with something today that should never be in this House at all, in my opinion. The right was given back in 1970, whereby the municipalities could have the vote and they could bring it forward, but to have this bill come back here to the House for us to vote on—why should I, as a member from rural Ontario, be here voting on a Metro bill? I think it is really unfortunate that the bill is here, being that there was no—as the member said—impact analysis done with regard to the whole foundation of the basis for that bill to be here.

I just wanted to compliment the member on her remarks. She made it very clear where she stood and I compliment her for that.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable member for Oriole has two minutes to respond.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Just to put on the record in response to the questions from my colleagues, I have always been a proponent of tax reform on the basis of fairness and equity and I've been a proponent of that no matter where I served, whether as alderman in the city of North York, ward 13, from 1978 until 1985; as a member of the provincial government from 1985 until 1990.

I would also say to him and to my colleagues and to the government that any reform is extremely important, because I believe the people of this province, my constituents, the people of Oriole as well as the people of the province of Ontario, believe everyone should pay their fair share. A tax scheme should be based on fairness and equity.

However, whenever you look at a tax reform scheme, it's also reasonable to understand that how you feel about that is going to depend, (1) directly on what the impact is going to be on you; and (2) often that will relate, when you're talking about property tax, to where you live and what you're getting in the way of value for those dollars you are spending.

The concern people have today, in the middle of a recession, is that their taxes are high, and they are. Some believe they are too high, and under this NDP government we've seen them go even higher. They know the impact of reneging on transfer announcements to the municipalities, that it's going to mean higher property taxes at the municipal level, and so they're worried about: Will they be able to afford to keep their homes? Will they be able to afford to keep their businesses?

People are reasonable and they understand these important issues. On the record, I believe in and have always been supportive of Metropolitan Toronto and the local council having the ability to achieve that tax fairness.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this debate.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Markham.

Mr Cousens: I'm glad to participate in the Bill 94 debate and I'll just read the title in, because I don't think anyone's taken the time to look at this stupid long title that the minister's put together for it: An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. That's one of the longest names of any act I've seen, but more than that, it raises just a spectre of questions and concerns that we want to touch on.

I think many things are unprecedented about this bill. The title is minor, but it sort of tells you how they put every word in there.

I can't remember when the Legislature was still in second-reading debate on a bill and a committee had already begun the hearings. The public hearings under the social development committee began this afternoon at

3:30, and yet this House has not even completed its second-reading exercise to refer it to the committee.

Mr Hope: It's called parallel justice.

Mr Cousens: My good friend calls it parallel justice. It just shows you that this government really doesn't care what we have to say on this side of the House. They've set their agenda. They're going to come along and they'll set things when they want, how they want, where they want, and it really doesn't matter what opposition members have to say.

The fact of the matter is, it is due to the efforts by our caucus that we are having public hearings. I'm satisfied to have that, but if this government had scheduled the debate on Bill 94 earlier so that there was a greater opportunity for people to participate in this debate, then I think it would have been far better for everybody, so that what is said in Hansard today would have been available for those people who are making presentations to the committee. It just makes sense that you have that kind of protocol.

Notwithstanding that, the legislation is before us now. We do have a minimal opportunity to respond to it, especially since the government has changed the rules, which only allow a member to speak for up to 30 minutes on a bill such as this. So I want to use my time well. I am so critical of this government on so many things. It's imperative that one take advantage of the opportunity in the Legislature to lay on the record some of those concerns, even although I know at this point that with the bill already going to committee, the government's already made up its mind to vote on it. It makes one wonder, why does one even want to speak on it now? But that's the lunacy of being in the Ontario Legislature when the NDP are in power, and that has an awful lot to do with it.

Mr Hope: That is called opportunity for the general public instead of the politicians to do their usual theatrics.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Cousens: Well, I would just say this government is going to do its own thing. It's not unlike what they're doing with other issues where the government, instead of bringing it to the Legislature and having the Legislature vote on it, such as Sunday shopping—we in this House have not yet had an opportunity to vote on Sunday shopping, and yet a decree comes out of the Premier's office or someone else's office over there, and now we've got wide-open Sunday shopping. It might well have passed in the Legislature at the time, but the government doesn't allow the Legislature to decide. They decide themselves. The Premier and the executive council of the province are the ones who are usurping the authority of the Legislature and then making these decisions on their own.

That's true of many other bills yet to be passed where in fact we're already paying the taxes that were brought in through the budget that the government brought in earlier, this May. The government is consistent in running its own agenda rather than using the Legislature as a forum for debate and for understanding the issues in the broader context of what it is that we have to do.

There are a number of issues that have to do with Bill 94 and this market value reassessment. Certainly one of

the ones that many have touched upon has to do with the economic impact. I don't think there's any doubt that we have to face up to the need for reassessment, inasmuch as it's some 40 years since the mill rates, the assessments, have been assessed. So I can understand the urgency of dealing with this issue. Then I also question why at the same time there wasn't some kind of economic impact analysis that would tell us the net effect of the change to bring in MVA.

1830

Before going for a full market value assessment, one would have thought that Metro or the Ontario government, in all their haste to get something done—it's obvious they're in a hurry to ram it through the Legislature right now. That's fine. I suffered that for the last seven years when the Liberals were in power and I can suffer it now when the New Democrats are in power. It's just a matter where they have an agenda and they're going to follow it.

The problem that really comes out is that there are so many elements that go into an economic study. The effect it's going to have on small businesses within Toronto: What is the impact going to be on them? What is the impact going to be on small home owners in the different areas? We have some sense of it, but is there going to be any impact on people? I have a sense that there's going to be. Is there going to be some way in which some people are affected more than others? Have all the economic consequences been weighed?

The issue I want to make is that this government side-steps the economic issues, not only on Bill 94 but on every other bill that I've been involved with.

Bill 143 is the bill that is giving the government the power to bring landfill sites into York, Durham and Peel. It's the bill that's giving the government the power to shift Metro's garbage up to York region. It's the bill that excludes consideration of rail haul to Kirkland Lake or some other site out of the greater Toronto area. It is a bill that is afraid to look, and doesn't look, at the economic consequences of what they're doing. A number of political decisions have been made by the minister, the Honourable Ruth Grier, and those decisions are ones that exclude looking outside of the greater Toronto area. They exclude looking at the economic consequences of rail haul.

What I'm saying is that it's an example where the government failed miserably to look at economic consequences, and that's the issue in Bill 94. There is no economic impact analysis. You'll come along and make your decision on something based on the ideology of the New Democrats, but it does not, at the same time, balance off the economic considerations.

Another example of a bill in which this government has gone haywire is Bill 40, the new labour legislation. What we asked for and business asked for was some kind of economic impact analysis of the effects of Bill 40 when it's brought in on January 1, 1993. We never got it from the Honourable Bob Mackenzie, Minister of Labour. We don't know how bad it's going to be. We know it's going to be bad, but this government was gutless when it came time to do that kind of economic impact analysis.

That's the kind of thing that is causing people outside this place to become more and more angry and frustrated with government, because government should be able to balance all these things and understand the consequences of everything we're going to do.

It is not without a great sense of worry that every one of us calls upon the government, in this bill and in other bills, to look at the economic considerations. Don't just consider your ideology without also considering the cost. It is an ideology. It's a belief system the New Democrats have that everything they do is right and is therefore not subject to that kind of objective evaluation. That is what we're asking for. You get the data, you analyse them, you put them down and you can see that. This is a government that operates just by fiat, where decisions are made and then you end up having other members of its caucus who go along with them.

I have to say, as one who sits here and wonders about the economic impact, that I wonder about the impact on the Metropolitan Separate School Board. I'd like to know what impact it's really going to have. I ask the question, is it true that Metro's separate board will have a lower assessment because of MVA? Does it mean more taxes on separate school supporters? This I don't know. Does it mean more funding from the province to support the Metropolitan Separate School Board? What is the impact on the separate school board?

Then you ask the same questions on the public school boards. Are they going to be getting more money? If so, what's the effect of that? Does this mean the province is going to change its educational funding formulas for the public school boards in Metropolitan Toronto?

These are questions that need to be addressed and assessed in a total economic impact analysis, and that has not been done. As it stands now, there's hardly time to do it, is there? But it still causes me concern. I know these words are on deaf ears. I know the members of the New Democratic caucus have traditionally voted as a bloc. They vote with the government constantly. They are not allowed to think for themselves, or at least don't show it in the House.

Interjection.

Mr Cousens: I know there are a number of thinkers here, but we want to see evidence of it in the House. That's all I want to say. If we could see some evidence of your thought processes, then in the Legislature it would give us a sense that there's some wood burning somewhere.

One of the other issues that ties in to the economic impact analysis: In the Legislature last Thursday I introduced a private member's bill and it received first reading, Bill 104, An Act to amend the Municipal Act to provide for a Special Mill Rate for Condominium Units. I brought this in as a bill that again ties in to market value assessment and—I know the Speaker sits there ready to jump on me; now I've got to stay on topic and I will. This ties in to the condominium owners who are in the greater Toronto area.

Condominium owners right now, as members will well know, have a different assessed value on their dwellings than do residential dwellings. I'm talking about residential

condominiums. Residential condominium owners will often pay as much as 30% to 50% to 70% more in taxes because their properties are assessed differently and they pay taxes differently on those condominiums than do residential homes. What has happened is that the assessed value of condominiums is much higher than residential homes. As a result, those condominiums pay a much higher tax.

For a 2,200-square-foot condominium where the tax might be, certainly in some communities, \$5,000 or \$4,900, a residence that is, instead of 2,200 square feet, maybe 3,200 square feet, would pay \$3,000 in taxes. So it is almost \$2,000 less for a larger piece of property. When you now attach market value assessment on the residential condominium, how much more are they going to be paying?

Who has looked at the cost to condominium owners, many of whom are people on fixed incomes, many of whom are not able to really handle it as it is now? I ask the Speaker, in all the assessment that I have been able to do on this ad that's been circulated to me on Bill 94 and on market value assessment, I have seen nothing in a market analysis on the impact this is going to have on condominium owners.

First of all, I think it's wrong that condominium dwellings are not taxed at the same rate as residential dwellings. That is the intent of Bill 104, which received first reading last week. I want to see equity between condominiums and residential, not inequity. But the inequity that exists now in the law under the Municipal Act for condominium dwellings is going to be exacerbated because of the MVA-Bill 94 effect.

I ask the government, why haven't you taken the time to look at the impact it's going to have on condo dweller-owners, for residential? I realize there are a lot of questions to be asked. I don't have the answers to them, but I can ask the questions.

The questions are valid. Condominium owners right now are being treated differently than residential owners. They are being punitively treated and it's time the government had a reassessment of what their dwellings are going to be assessed at. Again, if that were tied in with this Bill 94, where there was consideration of all the ramifications of the bill, then we would begin to see some kind of building of trust. What's happened now is that there's just a constant deterioration of trust that people have in the government by virtue of the way in which the needs and concerns of people are generally ignored or overlooked.

Certainly with the New Democrats in power, they overlook consistently the economic considerations of the bills they are presenting to this House. They have done so, as I said earlier, in Bill 143; they have overlooked economic considerations in Bill 40; and now here again in this bill that we're analysing tonight, Bill 94, the government once again has sidestepped the issue of, "Let's look at the economics of what this bill has to do." I am calling on this government to have some economic impact analysis so that we can see the net impact of what this bill is going to do.

1840

I'm not satisfied on another issue, that the government has given ample opportunity to the public at large to comment on this deal, this deal between Mr Cooke, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Metro Toronto. Certainly many of the home owners in Toronto are not even aware now that hearings have already begun on this bill. There are many people busy just trying to survive in their businesses. They're just trying to keep their families together. They've got many other priorities.

If due process had been followed, then the people would have had a chance to know that this is coming before the House. They'd have ample opportunity to make written submissions, oral submissions and come to the House. Instead, there are going to be a couple of short weeks during which there will be some public hearings, but the fact is it isn't good consultation. It's not the kind of consultation that evokes trust from the public at large.

I think the fact is that the process has been flawed right from the beginning. In fact the government has a number of members in its midst who have campaigned against market value assessment. They stood up and, in running for election on September 6, 1990, when Mr Rae swept the province with his 37% and won a huge majority in this Legislature, many of those people who were elected at that time used as one of the issues that they would fight MVA.

I have not heard too much from Ms Churley, Zanana Akande and Mr Silipo, who certainly have major roles to play in the Rae government. Yet when they were running for election they used this as a ploy. What they should almost do now is to go back—not almost; take the “almost” out—they should go back to their electorate and say: “I have welshed on my election promise. When I was running back then, I said that I would campaign and continue the fight against MVA. Now I am coming to you and asking your forgiveness. Do you support me now, even though I won on the basis of misrepresentation of what it is I'm doing?”

They spun the issue out at that time. They allowed themselves the glory of saying, “We will fight against MVA,” and now that they're in government and in power it doesn't matter what they said then. Well, I think it does matter, and the people of Metropolitan Toronto will hold them accountable for the way in which they have broken the trust they were elected on.

Certainly I know Mr Rae has done it enough times that maybe there's a precedent for people to say one thing before they're elected and then do another after they're elected. That's certainly the case when you deal with land-fill, my favourite subject. When Mr Rae was out at Keele Valley—I have to put it on the record again—he said there would never be an expansion to the Keele Valley landfill without a full environmental assessment. What's happened? Hey, it's expanding. It's one thing if you say it before you're elected and it's another if you do something else after you're elected.

MVA is another example. There are key people in the Rae government who campaigned against it and now they're in a position where they're coming out for it.

I paused to comment on the Minister of Health, Frances Lankin, and I did not mention her name. Before she was elected she fought strenuously against MVA, and I heard her speak here in this House the other day. She will also be campaigning and fighting against MVA on a continuing basis. That consistency before you're elected and after you're elected certainly is worthy of mention. I don't want to tar every one of the New Democrats with the same dirty brush. I pause and give compliments to Frances Lankin for the way in which she articulated her position and why she's taking it.

What we have now is a situation where you talk about process, you talk about government being elected by the people for the people and it has a different position once it's elected. I ask why it is that you rushed through the bill when in fact the commission that was established to look into this, the Fair Tax Commission, the property tax panel, still has not made its recommendations known. It's still in study of this thing, yet here we are.

This government will pass Bill 94 tonight and then it goes back to the committee and then it's going to come in for third reading in a couple of weeks, but the Fair Tax Commission, which has something to say on this, which has been involved in the study of it, still hasn't had a chance to make its positions known.

I have concerns about market value assessment in a number of areas. I want to put on the record that we've been doing some consideration of the MVA from an environmental angle. I would just like to put on the table a number of the concerns that have come through our discussions in that regard. It raises a series of questions that go back to the New Democrats' Greening the Party, Greening the Province: A Vision for the Ontario New Democratic Party that was released in March, 1990. I want to point out the inconsistency of the MVA approach the government is now taking, the inconsistency with its own Greening the Party publication.

By raising taxes on downtown homes and businesses and lowering them in the suburban areas there will be a financial incentive for development to shift from the more compact central areas to the suburbs, where densities are lower and the automobile reigns supreme. This will push Toronto closer to the type of sprawling development that characterizes American cities like Houston and away from the more compact city form of European cities. A shift in development away from downtown out to the suburbs leads to more reliance on the automobile, loss of agricultural land and open spaces to urban sprawl, increased costs to transportation, water and sewer infrastructure because of the lower densities in the suburban areas.

Market value assessment appears to move us in the opposite direction of the goal of a more compact, intensified urban development, which has been supported by the Ontario Round Table on Environment and the Sewell commission. We believe that's the direction they're taking—Toronto's city plan—and especially it leads us away from the NDP's own document, Greening the Party, Greening the Province, which speaks of the need to “direct the growth of cities like Toronto in such a way as to encourage public transit and less dependence on automobiles.”

The NDP document, *Greening the Party, Greening the Province*, also speaks of the need to "integrate environmental concerns into cabinet-wide decision-making." I challenge the government members and ask them: Have they taken the time to look back on the document they submitted to the public before they were elected, in which they came out with such pronouncements that would have encouraged public transit, discouraged urban sprawl and tried to keep a city in a more compact form?

In succinct words, what it really does—when you change the tax structure as you are, you're in some way making it more difficult for people to establish themselves in the downtown city core and then making it easier for them to go to the outer areas and the suburban areas. Have they looked at the economic impact of this? Has this government looked at the environmental impact of this? These questions still need to be addressed.

Some of the other concerns that come into the whole Metro MVA plan are the uncertainty that is going to be around property within the greater Toronto area. What we're seeing is major tax shifts on property and the concern this is going to raise for people when they are buying property and selling property. For two thirds of commercial properties with tax increases there are increases implied by the new assessment beyond 25% which Metro's plan simply ignores. These increases will exceed 100% of the 1992 taxes for as many as 19,000 commercial-industrial units across Metro.

The transition to market value assessment, to these new taxes, will have barely gotten under way during the transition period, leaving a cloud of uncertainty hanging over 1998 and later when you get to the next stage. It is safe to say that no reassessment transition program in Canada has left so much uncharted territory re the phasing in of tax shifts. The resulting uncertainty would have negative impact on the investment climate and cause potential problems with mortgage financing.

The question I ask is, what about the future? Has this government got any view beyond 1998? Do they have any view beyond 1995 when we'll come for re-election? Have we got a complete transition schedule that will come along and bring taxes into line with the new assessments in five years or less? We're dealing with a precedent-setting level of uncertainty, which is again something that would have been assessed and analysed in the impact analysis for this government to look at.

I see the significant shift in tax burdens to commercial and industrial taxpayers. It's a shift that amounts to something like \$58 million a year of the tax burden from residential to non-residential taxpayers. Has anyone taken the time to look at that? Is there any provision, if it turns out worse than we think, for Metro to reverse the shift of tax burdens? We are concerned about the reassessment program to date because it involves a permanent shift of tax burdens between residential and non-residential taxpayers.

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Start combining this with the tax shift that's taking place even within Metro on the issue I raised earlier in my Bill 104 for condominium owners and for residential owners.

There are even shifts going on there that really have not been assessed to my satisfaction.

We are concerned about the degree to which this program is discriminatory. To address concerns with respect to the massive and sudden tax increases, Metro has extended the provisions to broader and broader groups of properties. Some 3,000 properties have been given the special category where property owners will not be protected by the cap, so there are many people who are going to be impacted immediately. Many people think, "Well, MVA is coming in, but the province is agreeing to a very gradual process." Not totally so: Some 3,000 properties are going to be impacted very, very quickly. They are being singled out, I believe somewhat unfairly, because no one has taken the time to see the impact this MVA is going to have on them, and they could be paying as much as \$60 million a year in excess taxes.

The other question that comes into this whole MVA is the value of property after you've implemented this program. The question is going to be, who will benefit? You'll have the same kind of syndrome effective in Toronto, where they say, "Welcome, stranger," because the stranger who buys the house which hasn't had the full assessed value being charged in its taxes will suddenly be looking at a tax bill three, four times more than what had been. By virtue of the phased-in approach, as soon as the property is sold the full assessed value is impacting the property owner and he'll be paying the full new tax amount.

You're almost going to have to put on the sale of a property the fact that the taxes were this amount, but when you start seeing what they're going to be, it'll show generally the amount you're going to be charged.

It'll be an issue for the courts, because what'll happen is that properties adjoining one another, neighbouring lots, can pay dramatically different taxes, depending on the date of the most recent sale. With the "Welcome, stranger" concept, as it became known in the US, there would be no appeal mechanism for people to come in and fight the tax disparities that will be in effect here in Toronto.

This is serious stuff. Paying taxes is serious in the first place. The fact that this government is now opening up the door to more disparities is serious stuff. When you start putting the economic model on this whole tax system, it's going to change the dynamics of a city. I think we've got to come back and look at the whole subject in a more realistic and fair and honest way, instead of the piecemeal approach that this government said it would never fall into. All they're doing is falling into the trap they criticized every other government of doing before. They've had the chance to do it, and here they're coming forward making a recommendation based on Metropolitan Toronto, not having had a chance to look at all the impact of what they're doing.

I think you can tell that I'm opposed to this bill. I'm opposed to it because there has not been the full economic impact analysis of it. I'm opposed to it because of the environmental considerations. I'm opposed to it because of the process—

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired. Thank you very much. Questions and/or comments?

Mr McLean: I'd like to take the opportunity to comment briefly on the remarks made by the member for Markham. The previous speaker is voting for it. Now we have had a speaker who is voting agin it. It brings out the very reason this bill is being so hotly debated. They both brought out many of the same subjects when they looked at the impact it's going to have. The impact analysis has not been held, and why wasn't it?

We look at some of the remarks made by some of the members who have spoken and the fact that this is the first time ever, I guess, that there's been a bill in this Legislature which deals with market value assessment, other than the bill that was brought in in the 1970s which would allow the municipalities the right, under section 63, to proceed with market value assessment within the municipality.

Some 75% of the province of Ontario is under market value assessment. When it was done at the appropriate time it was right. Today, most of the municipalities in the province are under the 1984 market value assessment. Why has Metropolitan Toronto never, ever come under a market value assessment analysis? Why has there been no impact study done to see why it has not happened? Today, probably it should be on a 1991 market value assessment, or spring of 1992 would be possible. But to have this bill come forward, it's hard to believe that this Legislature should be voting on something that's happening in Metropolitan Toronto.

This bill doesn't only touch on the assessment just for the schools; it touches on many other aspects of education, rents—there are at least four or five different areas this bill represents, and to hear the last two speakers certainly gives you an indication of the feeling that's out there with regard to MVA.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I want to talk about reality here for a second. Reality is that the member who just finished speaking, the member for Markham, is opposed to everything we're doing. That's reality.

Reality is that most of the people in Metro are going to benefit from this plan. Reality is that the majority of the people in Metro are going to benefit from this plan. Reality is that out of the 350,000 tenants we have in Metro, 200,000 are going to benefit from this plan.

Reality is that this individual is never going to agree with this government. It's fundamental. He and his party believe in doing things their way, they did it for 42 years their way, and the minute we get a half-decent government that wants to be fair and implement something that perhaps will give the majority of the people in Metro a break, he's opposed to it.

When the Liberals get up you'll hear some of them opposed to this as well. Reality is that they're the ones who started this whole process with Metro. That's reality.

Reality is that we're implementing something that Metro wants us to implement. Reality is that this is a fair system. It's a compromise. Compromise is something that the Conservatives certainly wouldn't know the meaning of. Compromise is something that the Liberals certainly

wouldn't know the meaning of. Compromise is a fair and just system.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Parkdale.

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Mr Ruprecht: I appreciate the comments that were made by the member for Markham. Normally he's pretty persuasive, but I wish he had addressed himself more specifically to some of the points which concern most of us here; that is, when I raised the first question a few minutes ago about Bill Davis. What does this member say when Bill Davis—

The Acting Speaker: Might I say to the honourable member that you are to restrict your comments to what the honourable member for Markham has said.

Mr Ruprecht: Of course. We realize that, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: I just advise you.

Mr Ruprecht: Yes. I hope, Mr Speaker, you will add on those few seconds that it would take to explain all of this at this point. But if not, Mr Speaker, I appreciate your remarks.

I wish that the member, in his comments, would have expanded a bit on what the comments were previously; namely, what the situation was with the former Premier of this province when he had said that he doesn't approve of the current market value assessment, and, in addition, he gives a good reason for it. He says: "The 10% solution for reassessment simply delays the inevitable consequences of higher taxes. The increases, many of them substantial, will result in the closure of many dealerships." And that is the point.

Does the member for Markham—and I wish he would expand on this—realize what will happen, what the consequences will be of this bill when it is imposed upon the people of Metropolitan Toronto, and the economic rot that is going to set in when this bill is finalized? He certainly knows that in Markham, for the many people who travel from Markham to Toronto, in terms of the GO Transit, their share of the railway property taxes will increase by \$11.2 million. This means that every time they take a trip to Toronto, it's going to cost them 45 cents more; in short, \$240 per year in terms of the increases from Markham to Toronto alone.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr Ruprecht: I wish he would say something about this in a minute.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired. Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I just want to take a couple of seconds to respond to the issue of the economic impact. One of the things the member for Markham has called for, as well as other members, has been for the government of Ontario to put in place an economic impact study in order to study what the ramifications would be for the taxpayers of the city of Toronto.

I think two things have to be said, and quite honestly. First of all, it is clearly the responsibility of Metro council.

It is a tax that they are imposing based on their own consensus, or lack of consensus in some cases, of what happened in Metro council around this whole issue.

The second thing is that all of a sudden this whole idea of economic impact is being raised every time a piece of legislation comes up from this side of the House. I never in five years saw the previous government or in 42 years saw their government put in place economic impacts on a number of pieces of legislation that they did.

The other thing that he raises is that he really wonders how members of this caucus, being the government side, will vote on this particular issue. I guess he's having a little bit of political fun there in regard to being able to see how this thing unfolds. But I remind the member—I don't need to remind him, because he has been around here longer than I have, but to the people watching—there is a process of caucus. When you're a government member, one of the things you do is you make a decision as a whole within that caucus. You make a decision as a caucus of the government; you vote en masse. The opposition has the luxury of being either one side or another on a particular issue, because their vote doesn't mean anything. Basically, this whole thing is a political football. I think you can argue on both sides of this issue depending on where you happen to be living. Is it a good thing or is it a bad thing? I think what the member clearly did is try to make this thing a political football, something that he is very good at doing, in trying to find a way to yet again get at the government and to criticize about a particular issue. I wish the member would actually stick to facts and try to be a little bit more civil in his responses when he's up in debate so that people can give the proper attention that he's deserved when he's debating.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Markham has two minutes to respond.

Mr Cousens: This place is always interesting. I thank the member for Simcoe East for his remarks, and I really thank all members for their participation and for having observed what's going on.

One of the comments made by the member for Yorkview that I take strong exception to is when he says that people in the opposition oppose everything that the government does.

If this government does anything that's good or right, I will support it. Certainly when I talk to the Minister of the Environment about her strategy to reduce the amount of garbage by the year 2000 to the 50% level, I support that. There are initiatives the government is doing in Transportation to build 407. I support that. There are initiatives they're making to build the loop for the subway up along Steeles and Keele to York University. I support that. So you can't come along and give a blanket statement that we're opposed to everything. But the advantage we have in the adversarial form of politics is that we can hold certain things up and discuss them and, hopefully, with the honesty and integrity of the House, analyse them and assess them properly and fairly.

In that process, I find the government lacking in having an economic analysis. I don't think you can separate

economics from anything, and I believe there's a tremendous value in being able to look at things and say: "What's the cost attached to it? What does it really mean? Why are we doing it? What is the impact on most people?" If you can do that kind of economic analysis, which worked during 42 years, then that's something this government might learn from. Don't throw out all the past to try to handle the present. Try to build on the past. History is linear. It builds upon itself. We can learn from the past.

I refer to the honourable member for Parkdale. I happen to know that other governments have had a difficult time facing up to this issue of market value assessment and that no one has been able to come up with a perfect answer. But at least there was an attempt to try to find an economic answer to the way of bringing out equity and fairness.

What we're bringing forward today does not—

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much.

Before I recognize another member to speak in the debate, just a couple of comments: One is that the debate is on Bill 94, and we need to restrict our comments to that bill. The second comment would be in terms of questions and/or comments. A number of members have been asking questions and making comments about many different things but not focusing on the speech that has been given, upon which there should be questions and/or comments. So I would ask the members of the House to please be more focused in their debate.

I recognize the honourable member for Scarborough West.

Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West): I believe there is one thing that everybody agrees with in this debate, and that is that there are serious problems with Metropolitan Toronto's present property tax system that assesses taxes based on apples and oranges. Some people pay taxes from assessments based on more recent, high property values; other pays taxes from assessments based on older, low property values. Consequently, taxes for similar homes vary by thousands of dollars.

In my riding of Scarborough West there are many properties which are representative of each of these versions of property assessment. People paying taxes on the first version, on assessments based on the more recent higher property values, are feeling fed up and are refusing to take it any more. But to suddenly move everybody to assessments based on full market value threatens many other people with such sudden high tax increases that the impact would be devastating to many home owners and businesses.

There are also very strong arguments that moving to full market value assessment would have serious impact beyond that affecting individual home owners and businesses, especially in the city of Toronto. There's a serious argument, supported by urban specialist Jane Jacobs, that full market value assessment would result in urban decay in Toronto such as that which we see in many American cities. There's also a serious argument that full market value assessment would penalize city dwellers who use municipal services more efficiently. This argument is based on the premise that the costs of services from garbage collection to public transit and roads are higher per

person in the suburbs where people enjoy larger lot sizes. So where does this leave us? It leaves us in serious need of a compromise in the short term; it leaves us in serious need of a major overhaul of Metro's property tax system for the long term.

Metro council has grappled long and hard with the conflicting interests before it and developed a compromise for the 1993-97 assessment period. This compromise, I emphasize, is far from full market value assessment and, as a result of my government's bill, it will not trigger full market value assessment automatically in 1998. The compromise limits any residential property tax increases from this reassessment to a maximum of 10% over two years and limits any commercial and industrial increases from this reassessment to a maximum of 25% over three years.

Metro proposes phasing in property tax decreases, where they are warranted, at a rate of 50% over two years for residences, 25% over three years for commercial properties and 40% over three years for industrial properties.

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Increases for property taxes on rental units are limited by the same 5% annual ceiling in each of the following two years as are other residential units. Since property taxes usually represent about 20% of a tenant's rent, that means the most a tenant's rent can normally increase in buildings affected by increases will be by 1% of total rent. Tenants should remember that any such increase is also limited by this government's rent control legislation to the 4.9% guideline in 1993, with the landlord being able to apply for a maximum of a 3% increase if he can prove that his costs have risen by a greater amount.

In rental buildings of seven or more units, Bill 94 also allows Metro council to ask the provincial rent registry to automatically decrease the maximum rent for rental units so that tenants can benefit where their building is eligible for a property tax decrease. If Metro doesn't apply, or in buildings with less than six units, tenants themselves can apply to their local rent control office to ensure that their rent reduction is passed on to them.

As a compromise for the period of the immediate four years to come, I think this is a livable compromise, and I say this as somebody who would be affected by a 25% increase if full market value assessment were enacted.

I'm also sitting on the standing committee on social development right now, which is examining Bill 94, and I'd like to point out to some of the previous speakers—first, in terms of the member for Markham, who was complaining so greatly about the fact that there are hearings already taking place while the bill is before the Legislature, I'd like to point out to any viewers watching that the fact that the hearings are already taking place is a consequence of an agreement between all three parties in this House.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): Requested by his party.

Ms Swarbrick: Requested by his party, my sister the Minister of Health points out.

I'd also like to point out, in response to some of the Liberals, such as my colleague from the Liberal Party who

is sitting on the committee at this point, and the member for Oriole who was speaking earlier, complaining about governments changing their minds, that in response to a question I put to two of the senior staff people from the Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs who were appearing to brief the committee this afternoon—those two staff people, one of whom has been working for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs since 1988; the other has 22 years' service in the Ministry of Revenue—they have confirmed, in answer to my question, that the Liberal government before us was moving towards enabling legislation to allow the Metro level of government to reassess property taxes based on consideration of current market values. So I'd like to point out that with all the righteous comments coming from the other side accusing the NDP of changing its position, in fact the Liberals are very clearly changing their position and their song on this issue.

I'd like to point out that I don't believe we are changing our position on this issue. As I've indicated, this is not full market value assessment. This is a compromise that the autonomous Metro level of government has arrived at after hearing lengthy deputations from all parties concerned. Before I finish, I'll point out the number of things our government is doing to try and arrive at a truly fair system of property taxes before the 1998 assessment period begins.

I'd like to point out, however, that in terms of the compromise that Metro arrived at, my government does see two areas of problems.

We see, first, a concern with regard to Metro's plans to move to a full market value assessment for resale homes.

We also see a problem in terms of the impact of the move to full market value assessment on utility lands and some other public lands, particularly the railway lands and the Hydro lands where those properties are not being assessed based on their use as utility lands. They're instead being assessed for taxes based on the use of the properties that surround them, which are used for commercial and industrial purposes or residential purposes, totally different from the value or the assessment that should exist for land used for utility purposes.

As a consequence, our enabling legislation to introduce the Metro compromise position requires Metro council to debate and to pass bylaws before it can remove the caps on tax increases from resale homes, so that it can give it much more, further sober consideration.

Likewise, our enabling legislation allows Metro to change its mind with regard to the utility lands like the railroad lands and the Ontario Hydro lands to implement a system of caps such as those it developed for the other lands we are permitting it to go ahead and make some change on.

I said that I believe there's a serious need in the long term for a major overhaul to the property tax system, and for that reason we are not allowing Metro to go ahead and automatically move to full market value assessment in 1998. Instead, between now and 1997, we're committed to a number of things.

First, the province will be working with Metro and with other communities to do a full study of the social and economic impact any future changes would have within the Metro area.

Second, we'll be considering very clearly the report that's expected this December from the property tax working group of the Fair Tax Commission, which is examining this issue very fully, and that's a second area we'll be considering in terms of a move to future fair taxes.

Third, there's a report due to cabinet early in 1993 from the Minister of Education which is looking at possible ways to reform the way education is financed. For example, that would look at whether in fact we could begin as a province to allow a system that would allow education to be funded through the income tax system rather than through property taxes. That would allow for a great reduction in property taxes and instead allow education to be financed with consideration to the taxpayer's ability to pay. I'd like to say that I'm hoping that's a move this government could make to create much greater fairness in the system of property taxes.

Fourth, our government is also examining the impact that the present negotiations between the provincial government and the municipalities would have with regard to disentangling provincial and municipal cost-shared programs, including the possible removal of general welfare from the municipal property tax base.

Finally, as a result of all the controversy around the property tax reform, another controversy that's raised its head of late has been the issue as to whether or not the assessment system that results in property tax rates for tenants of three to four times greater than the property tax rate paid by home owners is one that needs to be changed. So that's again something that over these next few years, before the next assessment period begins in 1998, our government will be looking at very seriously, at working on to bring greater equity and greater fairness to tenants' property taxes as well.

In conclusion, my government's legislation, Bill 94, allows for the implementation of what I believe is a reasonable compromise presented by the Metro Toronto council for the coming assessment period, with a fair opportunity for Metro to reconsider the areas that we have trouble with. I also believe that the studies and reports that I've outlined that my government has under way, along with the proposals we'll be initiating in partnership with the municipalities, will allow us to work on a major overhaul that will result in a much more fair long-term system to everyone.

I personally hope this overhaul will allow us to remove the financing of education from the property tax system and to finance it from a progressive system of income tax based on people's ability to pay. In the meantime, I'll be voting in favour of Bill 94 and in support of the compromise that Metro arrived at after extremely lengthy consultations.

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The Acting Speaker: Any questions and/or comments?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I just wanted to comment on several points that were made with respect to

the issue regarding proposed changes that may take place at some future date under this administration. I would point out to members opposite and to the previous speaker that it is certainly within this government's mandate to do that at this time and obviously to prepare for changes that may come. But I think it's rather a marginalized argument when we sit here and have Metro go through this entire scheme, this entire exercise, coming up with this plan, and then at some point in the future say we're going to go with these other changes which will set us in a different direction.

I think that's probably what's going to happen once the Fair Tax Commission reports because obviously, and I think this is fundamental, the members opposite and the government that we have today do not believe fundamentally and in principle in this plan. Should you be the administration in power at some point in the future when this change may result, the system that you may move to will once again have the dislocating effects that we're seeing already.

Let's not fool ourselves, let's not kid ourselves with respect to the kinds of undertakings which would be brought forward by any administration in the future. Overhauling a tax system is not something you do every day and it's certainly not something that will be done in the foreseeable five years ahead of us.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I'd just initially like to say, every time I hear somebody from this government tell me what he's going to do in 1997 or 1998, I've got to figure that everybody in the province who's watching just has to shudder. The thought of these people still governing in 1997 and 1998 on the basis of their record so far is enough to make a person very nervous.

But let's get—

Hon Ms Lankin: Charles.

Mr Cordiano: It keeps them awake.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): Of course, it depends what the alternative is.

Mr Harnick: I knew I could make them wake up. If I struck the right note, I knew they'd all wake up. Now that they're awake, I'd just like to tell them, I've listened to many of the speeches that have been given, and excellent speeches by the member for Downsview and the member for Scarborough, and the only thing that amazes me about the speeches is the conclusions, because when I get to the conclusion, after they stand up and for 20 minutes or 30 minutes discuss everything that's wrong with this proposal, they say at the end, "I'm going to vote for it." I just can't believe that's the logical conclusion that you come to after you listen to the remarks.

The member for Scarborough West, just a moment ago, spoke very eloquently about difficulties with tenants: Why are they paying 3% to 4% more than everyone else? Yet here we have a chance to correct that. Why are you voting for this if tenants are going to continue to be hurt? You're the people who support tenants.

You talk about education and you talk about taxation for education. Aren't you the government who said that the provincial government should fund 60% of education? I haven't seen that come across the floor of this Legislature.

Why are you doing this? All of these grand ideals that you had, all of these plans that you were going to put in place, and none of it is embodied in this, yet you're all going to vote for it.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I'd like to commend the member for Scarborough West for a very well-thought-out argument in debate of this bill. I'd like to thank her for pointing out some very important points, more so that it was the Conservative Party, in cooperation with all three parties I guess, that insisted on having hearings while the bill is being debated in the House.

She pointed out that the Liberal Party was considering introducing enabling legislation for Metro to introduce MVA during its short term as the government of Ontario and, most important, she pointed out that this is a Metro bill, that there has been consultation, that Metro has made a compromise that it feels is in the best interests of its constituents.

I would like to commend her because now listening to her argument, I know why the constituents of Scarborough West say Anne Swarbrick is the best representative they've had for many, many years.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Ruprecht: I listened very attentively to what the member for Scarborough West had to say. I find it somewhat incredible that the conclusions she has come to certainly do not correspond with the premises she raised.

First, she says there are some problems with this bill and I know we would agree with that. But if there are problems, why not rectify these problems before she is prepared and her government is prepared to vote for the whole package. For instance, what I'd like to know is why the member for Scarborough West would agree to a bill when she knows full well there are no protective caps over certain corridors.

What would she say, for instance, to the protective caps on development sites that are currently vacant? Who, we want to know, is going to build on these sites when the taxes have gone through the roof and companies and developers simply cannot hang on to the businesses? Would she not agree that even with caps of 10% to 25% some of the businesses right now are simply hanging on by the skin of their teeth, are unable to make a living and are consequently considering closing? The consequence of that also has obviously been bankruptcies. Why would she give us an argument for voting for these kinds of recommendations when she knows full well there are a great number of flaws and errors in this legislation?

She knows nobody can build. She knows full well that the electrical workers who have been also writing about this, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have also stated that real jobs will be lost because of this

tax scheme. Is she therefore prepared to stand up and vote against it? Is she prepared to go down to the committee and say to the committee members, "I, Anne Swarbrick, am going to vote against this bill unless you make these changes that I've identified"?

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Ruprecht: Is she willing to do that? That's the question we want to know today.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable member for Scarborough West has two minutes to respond.

Ms Swarbrick: First, I'd like to respond to the member for Willowdale who was asking why I would vote for this bill if it's going to hurt tenants. I'd like to point out that, thanks to my government's rent control legislation, this change will not hurt tenants.

Second, I'd like to respond to the comments from the member for Parkdale who has referred to some of the flaws in the legislation that I've identified and who asked why I would then vote for it. I'd like to point out that the reason I'm willing to admit to flaws in the legislation is because I am not interested in being an MPP who simply works on a partisan basis.

I'm willing to openly admit what the flaws are in a piece of legislation; in fact my government is prepared to openly admit what the flaws are in Metro's proposal, and that's why in our enabling legislation we're referring back two particular items to Metro, clearly with our strong hint and urging and my strong recommendation that they relook at imposing caps on resale houses, not allowing them to go to full market value, and second—

Mr Ruprecht: Stand up in committee.

Ms Swarbrick: I will be and I am, and our bill says that, member for Parkdale.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms Swarbrick: Further, I certainly add to my government's encouragement to the Metro level of government to relook at the issue of the effects on public land of going to market value assessment, including—I'd urge the Metro level of government to look at putting caps on the utility lands in particular and making a strong recommendation, in this work we'll be doing along with them, that there should be a utility class for assessment, a class for utility lands.

Finally, in terms of the comments made with regard to the quality of this government, there may be a few things the opposition likes to make great hay about that in fact are a very small tip of what this government does day to day. I'd be very proud to stand on a platform and debate the substantive, competent, quality things—

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Swarbrick: —that my government is doing to help the province of Ontario through this difficult economic time.

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The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Cordiano: I am glad to rise on this occasion to speak to this piece of legislation. I would like to start out

by saying that it is indeed the great compromise we're seeing before us, in terms of the plan Metro has come up with. I think this government has recognized that in fact we do have a compromise to deal with, that's been proposed by Metro.

As the previous speaker leaves us, I say to her and her earlier remarks that, yes, it was the Liberal government plan to allow Metro to come forward with its proposal on this scheme with respect to property tax reassessment, entirely because we believed in the autonomy of Metro council. It's precisely because of that that we enabled Metro council to go to direct elections. It's for that very reason that Metro dealt with this matter in the way that would enable a local municipality or a local regional municipality to determine how it would deal with this very difficult question.

And it is a difficult question. I think very many people are reacting to this in the way they are because a number of schemes have been put forward and a number of proposals have been altered, and ultimately what we have before us is in fact a compromise.

When I first looked at this, I thought it would be very difficult to bring forward in its entirety because it is made up of a series of compromises. If you believe in the principle of market value—I know members opposite have commented on the fact that they support this as a government and that they have not reversed their positions on this, because they have put in some provisos for the plan as it unfolds for 1998.

To that, I say it's very clear that Metro council can pass a bylaw which would allow for the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto to go to full market value in 1998. The government of the day is suggesting that it can review those plans and it will conduct impact studies to ensure that irreparable damage isn't done to the local economy of Metro. I simply say that you can't look at it from one side and say, "On the one hand we have this, and on the other we're going to alter certain things we don't like."

In my earlier comments, I stated that if you have market value assessment, then you have market value assessment and you have to move forward with it, because to start a whole series of exclusions, exemptions and opting-out clauses etc that we're so fond of in the taxation system will lead us right back to the quagmire we're in today, the very reason this proposal has been brought forward. I would hasten to add that throughout the whole province of Ontario many municipalities have moved towards this scheme of evaluating properties on their market value.

So I say to the government that I think it's a somewhat false argument to say we can look at changing the basic foundations and structures of this scheme and altering it drastically to prevent the evening out, if you will, and therefore resulting in the dislocation we see from huge increases to both commercial properties and residential properties. This is difficult, and I know many of my constituents will have this kind of result.

I think what we're dealing with here is in fact the provincial role in respect to all of this. Is it this government's intention—and it was our intention as a government—to allow Metro to come forward with its own

scheme, a scheme it decided on and which was entirely within the realm of Metro's jurisdiction, then for enabling legislation to be brought forward to bring that scheme into law? I think that's what we have before us. But for this government to suggest that somehow it's going to allow this part of the way, which is in effect a compromise—and Metro understands it is; it brings us part of the way into the market value assessment scheme that is contemplated in its entirety some time down the road.

I think it has a number of difficulties, there is no doubt about that, but the arguments that have been made along the line that somehow the people in the city of Toronto use services much more efficiently and that therefore their property taxes should not be equal to people who are living in the suburbs, based on market value, I think are wrong in this sense: People living in the city of Toronto have a great many more amenities than people who live in the suburbs; they're much closer to cultural institutions, they're much closer to all kinds of entertainment, they're much closer to a variety of aspects of life the downtown core has to offer. Those are some of the amenities which I think somewhat offset the argument that's made with respect to services.

I know there has been an effort to spread the intensification throughout the city, and there will continue to be, so we must not look at things as they are today because I believe that in the future we will have greater intensification in North York, in Etobicoke and in Scarborough, resulting in greater efficiencies with respect to services.

If what we're implementing here is a new system which is based on a principle equal to all—and I think some people on the other side of the House are contending that it's not—then we shouldn't even move forward with this, if that's what you believe. I think it's far worse to come back at some time in the future with proposals that are put forward by the Fair Tax Commission and then revamp the entire system. If that's what you intend to do, in the time that you're still here as an administration, I would say that would be a colossal waste of time: to move forward with this plan, to move in that direction and then come back and try to re-alter the entire system, shake it at its very foundations. I think that's a road to disaster far worse than anything we're undertaking here.

There are no doubt people who will feel the brunt of the increases. That's understandable. There's a lot of resentment, perhaps, on the part of people who have to pay taxes that they feel are unfair. That's inevitable in the climate we're in; I understand that. And I understand the government's in a difficult position with respect to tax increases. But by the same token, I have to stand in my place and say it's not fair for the government then to suggest that somehow it's going to make things better by the Fair Tax Commission's proposals to revamp the whole system.

If that were the case, if we're going to move to a new era of taxation—certainly the Fair Tax Commission had a great deal of time to deal with this; a sufficient amount of time—I would have liked to have seen its proposals come forward before this matter was resolved with respect to market value reassessment in the municipality of Metro Toronto.

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You can't have it both ways. You can't go on the assumption: "Things will change. We'll make it better some time down the road. We'll make it more palatable for everyone. We don't really like market value, because we're not going to go with full market value. We've gone some steps towards that, but this isn't really market value."

It certainly does nothing for the constituents in my riding, who have been paying very high property taxes over the years, when this government then suggests that at some point in the future: "We're going to make it better. We're going to have a better, fairer system of taxation once we've undertaken this plan."

This plan is in motion. Once it's approved by this government, as it inevitably will be, I don't believe there's any turning back in terms of market value reassessment. As I said earlier, Metro Toronto has the power to pass a bylaw to bring about full market value reassessment in 1998.

I suggest to this government that either you have a regional municipality with the maturity that's been granted to it by our administration, yes, by the previous Liberal government, which enabled Metro to be directly elected, either you believe in that concept or you don't. If you don't, then I think and I suggest that you make that clear to the electors out there. Make it very clear that this government intends to deal with property assessment and the whole question of property taxation on its own. It's going to have direct say in how that's done. Make that very clear and then you can do what you want.

On the other hand, if you want Metro to move forward to be the kind of mature government that it has to be in these areas, then it's essential that it be given the opportunity to decide these questions. But you can't do it both ways, and this is what you're attempting to do. Not only is it misdirected, but I think it's not forthcoming of you to do this with respect to how electors will deal with it.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): It's not becoming.

Mr Cordiano: Well, it's not straightforwardness. Let's put it that way. I think it's a little less than straightforward, a little less than saying exactly what you intend to do, and this is a serious issue for the people of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. It's serious in respect of its economic impact, short-term and long-term.

I think people fully expect to understand what they're dealing with. If the government wanted to do impact studies—and it's been suggested by previous speakers that indeed impact studies are not appropriate at this time and that, on the other hand, the government intends to study the impact at some future date. I find it difficult to understand why impact studies are not appropriate at this time, given that this scheme has been altered from the original scheme that Metro had contemplated.

Perhaps I can even appreciate how some of my colleagues will in fact not support this, because it's really utterly confusing in its intention. The enabling legislation is not clear-cut. The enabling legislation is very confusing. We are considering this legislation in committee because of that very reason, and it's because of that reason that

we've requested that hearings be held. I don't think members opposite expect members of the opposition to give this government carte blanche on something so important as this. You can expect us to give you a lot of other things, but not that.

On the other hand, the public hearings I think are meaningful and give people an opportunity to express their viewpoints with respect to the enabling legislation. Once again, there will be people who come forward to discuss the aspects of market value reassessment one way or the other, and that's entirely within their right.

But I think what we're dealing with here is the way in which the direction for the future is set by this government with respect to factors surrounding property tax reassessment, whether the province intends to fully deal with this on its own and, as well, the mandate and the authority that Metro council has with respect to this very serious issue.

I think—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Cordiano: In the final analysis, I would be very concerned about this government's actions with respect to recommendations that are put forward by the Fair Tax Commission. If there are recommendations that are ready and waiting to be put forward to the public, then the Fair Tax Commission should have made those available publicly. But if you're going to plan to make major, fundamental changes, I think that's unacceptable with respect to this area in question. So I say to you, be clear as to your intentions, and this legislation is not clear.

It was my feeling at first that I would find it difficult to support this and I thought that I might oppose this legislation because you did not set a clear course of action, that the enabling legislation didn't go far enough, in my opinion.

On the other hand, I believe that market value reassessment is appropriate. I believe in the authority of Metro council to determine its own system of taxation within the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. As a result, I believe that it's appropriate that even this plan, with its various flaws, be given the consent of this Legislature and that market value reassessment be brought forward because it's a better scheme than what we had. It's a much fairer scheme than what we had, with its various flaws.

But I say to the government, I think it's not appropriate that we try to rejig that scheme and come up with an alternative system which moves us entirely away from this at some point nearer in the future. So I would be supporting this and look forward to the actual vote.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I want to thank the member very much for his comments. One major point he's made that I think all of us will agree with, especially on this side of the House, is that this government is about to make a colossal mistake, if I quote him correctly, by introducing this legislation. Of course we know why.

How can this government introduce this legislation fully knowing that there are some major flaws in it? We've heard speaker after speaker indicate, for instance, just one

example, that there were no caps on certain classes of property indicators. We know that there are major problems and yet the response this government is giving us is simple. They say: "Well, we cannot fix it. There's not much we can do about it. We can only make a recommendation." I would submit that recommendations at this specific time are not good enough. Action needs to be taken.

It reminds me of the former Soviet Union and its five-year plans: no relationship to reality out there. "Let's have a five-year plan in terms of taxation." "Let's have a five-year plan." You know what they used to do in the Soviet Union? They used to say—

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): You ought to be ashamed.

Interjections.

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Mr Ruprecht: Oh, I wish the audience could listen to this momentous demonstration of opposition.

Essentially they used to say, "We're going to have a five-year plan and our factories are going to produce 50 million lightbulbs," but no relationship to economic impacts. The glass companies could not deliver the glass to build the lightbulbs, the transportation infrastructure was not there to develop it, so it was clear, "Change it; we expect it."

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired. Thank you very much. Further questions and/or comments?

Hon Ms Lankin: I'm not sure what it was in the debater's comments that gave rise to the response with respect to five-year plans. I would point out that the Conservative government had a five-year plan for deinstitutionalization of psychiatric hospitals, in which no community services were in place. The Liberal government had a five-year plan for deinstitutionalization of community and social service facilities, in which there were no community services in place. It would appear to me that five-year plans have more to do with appropriate planning horizons than they do with ideology.

The Acting Speaker: The honorable member for Parkdale on a point of order.

Mr Ruprecht: I'm really delighted that the Minister of Health is making these comments, but as you know, they have (1) little relevance to what we're talking about here, and (2) we're talking about her five-year plans. I'd like to know what her plans are going to be in terms of treatment of addiction.

The Acting Speaker: Okay. The honourable member has no point of order. Please be seated. Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Sutherland: I'm just glad that the member for Parkdale has got up and indicated that his two minutes' worth of comments were irrelevant.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? If not, the honourable member for Lawrence has two minutes to respond.

Mr Cordiano: I'm glad my comments have sparked such outrageous behaviour on the part of all members.

Notwithstanding five-year plans, we have the three-year plan. I won't comment further on that, but the three-

year plan involves what may happen in the 1995 election. As I understand it, we're going to have one in 1995, so from now on I'm going to speak about three-year plans and what this government's going to do with the next three years of its mandate.

Quite frankly, as I said earlier, I'm very interested to hear from the Fair Tax Commission and its initiatives to bring about fairness in taxation with regard to a whole host of areas: education, and taxation reform, which ties into the whole question of property taxation. It is of fundamental importance to Metropolitan Toronto as it is, I'm sure, throughout the whole province, yet we have not seen any of these proposals come forward with respect to those very fundamental and important questions.

I don't think we can talk about revamping the property tax system, as this government has indicated it intends to do or has some inclination towards doing, without understanding the kind of impact this proposal brings about. As I said earlier, it sets a course, I think, which will be difficult to veer from, or equally difficult, as we've seen a change result over this new scheme. I would say to members opposite that changes like this are not easy to bring about, so let's not kid ourselves about some new plan that you're going to bring about.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr McLean: When this bill came forward, I wanted to have the opportunity to say a few words on it, having been involved in market value assessment over many years. It is a subject that touches a lot of people, especially those who are getting an increase. I've always indicated that it's probably the ones who are getting a decrease who should be the most upset, rather than the ones who are getting an increase, because as somebody said in the remarks earlier on, that one municipality has been paying increased taxes for 40 years and now they're finally going to feel that they're going to get levelled off.

There's a lot more to this bill than what a lot of people have been talking about. In the explanatory notes it says:

"The principal purpose of the bill is to provide for the implementation of the interim reassessment plan of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. To this end the bill amends the Municipality of Metro Toronto Act (sections 1 to 10) and the Education Act (sections 11 to 15) and repeals provisions in four private acts....

"The bill also amends the Rent Control Act, 1992, to provide for changes in the registry established under that act, where decreases in maximum rent result from area-wide reassessments in Metropolitan Toronto, a regional municipality, the county of Oxford or the district municipality of Muskoka."

I haven't heard that mentioned in any debate here that has taken place.

"The reassessment provisions are modelled on similar provisions related to regional municipalities contained in Bill 165 which received royal assent on June 25, 1992. The present bill provides for a uniform mill rate structure across Metropolitan Toronto for municipal and school purposes. It replaces the traditional cost-sharing and levy arrange-

ments (section 8 of the bill, proposed section 241 to 241.15 of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act).

"The bill provides for the phased implementation of the interim reassessment plan through bylaws to be passed by the Metropolitan council. The bylaws will enable the council to limit increases and decreases on taxes and payments in lieu of taxes resulting from reassessment. The power to pass bylaws limiting increases will be subject to provincial regulations. An appeal mechanism is provided for ratepayers (section 8 of the bill, proposed sections 241.14 and 241.20 of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act).

"Revisions are made to various provisions related to school boards, to accommodate a change from an apportionment-based system to a mill rate system for raising money for their needs (sections 11 to 15)."

So there's a lot more to this bill than what really meets the eye, and this is the first time that I've known a bill to be dealt with in committee—the time is now about almost 8 pm. I understand the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto is now before the committee making a presentation. I also understand the chairman is in favour of it and the mayor is opposed to it. As I said in my opening remarks, it's always been a controversial issue, market value assessment.

I welcome the opportunity to provide a few comments on this bill, the Metropolitan Toronto Reassessment Statute Law Amendment Act. The bill will enable Metro Toronto to implement, through bylaws, the compromise interim reassessment plan passed by Metro council on October 29, 1992. The bill amends Metro's own act, the Education Act, repeals four private acts and amends the Rent Control Act, which I previously stated, in the explanatory notes.

When an upper-tier municipality requests a region-wide reassessment such as the Muskokas, the regional municipalities act requires the adoption of a uniform mill rate structure. The bill proposes amendments to the education levy provisions in the Metropolitan Toronto Act and the Education Act to facilitate the adoption of uniform mill rates across Metro.

With reassessment, education finance will no longer be based on an apportionment of costs among the boards, but on mill rate estimates under which the Metro board will calculate a mill rate sufficient to cover its needs, and local boards will determine the mill rate necessary to raise its discretionary local level. The bill provides for the implementation of the mill rate estimates system. Aside from this change, the other amendments are technical in nature.

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The bill will enable Metro to implement its interim reassessment proposals by: passing a bylaw to limit tax increases and decreases in residential, commercial and industrial property classes as a result of reassessment; passing a bylaw to terminate the limit on a tax increase if a single-family dwelling is sold, and passing a bylaw to define the term "change of ownership."

It will also allow it to pass bylaws to limit the increase and, with the approval of the minister, to limit the decrease of business and real property taxes occurring as a result of the reassessment on units in the so-called excluded unit category, such as pipelines or railway rights of way.

If Metro fails to pass a bylaw to limit tax increases or decreases before June 1, in any year until 1998 that Minister of Municipal Affairs would exercise the power of Metro council and impose the limits as established in the regulation.

Prior to January 1, 1997, Metro Toronto must prepare and submit to the province a tax reassessment plan to be effective from 1998 to 2002, inclusive, and ratepayers who believe their taxes are excessive as a result of a bylaw being incorrectly applied may appeal to the local council of the municipality in which the property is located.

I want to speak briefly with regard to rent control. The bill amends the Rent Control Act to allow Metro or any upper-tier municipality which undertakes a reassessment to request that the rent register reflect rent decreases in the maximum rent for apartment units recorded in the rent registry. The municipality may be required to enter into an agreement with the province to cover these costs. Any tax decreases on apartment buildings are to be passed on to the tenants in the form of lower rents.

I have traditionally supported local initiatives in market value assessment. Many municipalities in Simcoe county have been operating under this system for years, and it is working. If I were living in Metro and my reassessment resulted in a decrease, I would be screaming, because if it drops now, it should have been lower a long time ago; in effect, I've been subsidizing others for years.

If I owned a business in Metro and my reassessment resulted in an increase of 300%, it would not be much of an incentive to stay in business or expand my existing business. This has been handled badly, and I can tell you, those business in downtown Metro Toronto that are looking at those increases are having a hard time as it is now without carrying on with large increases.

This is not the appropriate time to hit residences or businesses and industries with massive reassessment. The current economic climate created by the government does not warrant and cannot support such action.

I am pleased that the caucus I am part of has helped to secure the commitment with regard to public hearings into Bill 94. At least the public hearings will ensure some accountability in the process. This is a victory for every resident and every owner of a business or industry who has a stake in this very crucial undertaking.

In our caucus, there are members here who are split on their decision about how they feel they should vote. I'm sure most of them will be voting the way they feel their constituents want them to.

Over the years, no fewer than five region-wide reassessments have been done by the province at the request of the region or the regional council. It has never acted to implement the reassessment. When we look at the recommendations in this legislation and see the fact that the regional councils can apply, we can certainly understand what's happening.

And we look at the impact on the Metropolitan Toronto proposal, where some 58% of Metro home owners will qualify for tax reductions. Its proponents maintain that the plan is revenue-neutral. However, it will result in a redistribution of the total tax burden so that in 1994 Toronto

taxpayers will pay an additional \$46 million into Metro, Scarborough \$7 million less, North York \$19 million less, York and East York \$1.4 million less; and Etobicoke will only get—\$20,109 would be its payment.

Under earlier proposals, the city of Toronto taxpayers would have paid as much as \$150 million in additional taxes. The city of Toronto will be the hardest hit of the number of properties facing increases: About three quarters of all properties in the city will experience a tax hike as a result of the reassessment. So I understand when I see those people out in the streets demonstrating, those businesses that are suffering in the economy we have today, trying to stay in business, dealing with this market value assessment proposal that would put many out of business if it was implemented.

There is no easy solution to the problem that Metropolitan Toronto has been going through for many years. But the key is, in some of the discussion that has taken place during this debate, it was certainly interesting to see some of the people who had been opposed to some of the very issues within this bill, and it was interesting to see a previous Minister of Municipal Affairs speaking on this when he talked about "the very sensitive issue, the very emotional issue," and it will happen again, and let's hope that this House won't be faced with the same problems as we're faced with today.

I've got to tell you, there are still some municipalities out there that are looking at market value assessment. There are not many municipal councils, I must say, that want to implement it. It's a tough decision for a lot of councillors. Really, under market value assessment the municipality doesn't get any more money. The fact is that some will pay more and some will pay less. It's based on the market value of the property.

Why Metropolitan Toronto is based on a 1940s valuation is totally beyond me. In most of the area I'm fully aware of, we have a 1984 assessment. I think that was the least that could have happened here, with the properties based on that assessment; better still, it could have been based on a 1991 assessment.

There's a comment I enjoy: "I realize what government is trying to do. It's trying to deal with a major problem by piecemeal, and I don't think it's going to be very successful. I believe this is a Metro decision, yes. It should be given the power other regions have to make their own decisions. But to put this House in this kind of a bind is unreasonable for this minister, and I'm glad we will have the opportunity to discuss and to meet people and organizations that are concerned about the present compromise plan."

The minister talked about the mess that existed in this province for a number of years because most of our municipalities were under section 63 or 70, and he's absolutely right. I think we should continue to provide that opportunity to every municipality, but to say that it's so unique in Metro that we will interfere, I don't think it's right to ask this House to do so.

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There have been many different thoughts presented during this debate. The debate that's in this House at the present time, also going on in committee, is going to affect

an awful lot of home owners. In some municipalities, 80% will get a reduction, and it's going to be phased in. When you look at the aspect of the ones who are going to get the increase, those are the ones we're concerned about. I believe it is some 10% increase a year. That's a large increase for people to have to pay, especially the commercial assessment. The commercial assessment is the major part of Metropolitan Toronto's taxation revenues.

When you look at the whole avenue with regard to expenditures and the market value assessment we have, it's going to be interesting to see what the outcome of this vote will be. My understanding is that there are some cabinet ministers who have vigorously opposed market value assessment. My understanding also is that they will be voting again when it comes here to the Legislature. I think that's at their right. They're representing their constituents and that's what their constituents are asking them to do.

I think it's really an issue that members are going to have to consider strongly, the points of view that have been put to them by their constituents. It may be the first time in my 11 years here that I've seen a cabinet minister—if they do vote—vote against a piece of legislation that has been brought to this Legislature. I think that's good. I'd be glad to see that, because I'm of the old school: I believe people should represent their constituents and speak for their constituents. Regardless of what position you hold in here, you should have that opportunity to vote what your constituents feel you should.

When we look at the industrial properties that will experience a tax increase as a result of reassessment, they'll have the increase limited to 25% non-compounded over three years based on 1992 taxes. The phase-in is the same as for commercial properties, which will be 10% in 1993, 10% in 1994 and 5% in 1995. So the industrial properties qualifying for a decrease will have the decrease phased in at a rate of 30% in 1993, 36% in 1994 and 40% in 1995 and subsequent years.

Other properties owned by non-profit groups will be subject to the same caps and phase-ins as other properties in that class. A full tax increase may apply to vacant lands, railway rights of way, hydro rights of way and the pipeline.

The article in the paper today about the TTC indicated that the increased cost to the ridership could be 45 cents per rider per trip. That extra cost is what this legislation could do.

In Metro, the mayor and all the councillors from the city of Toronto, one councillor from York; one from East York and three of the eight representatives from North York all voted against the motion. All the representatives of Etobicoke and Scarborough, five of the eight representatives from North York, two from York and one from East York voted in support of the motion, because the nature of the proposal of Metropolitan Toronto requires enabling legislation from the province to implement the very plan they voted on on October 29.

The residential properties I spoke about earlier, including apartments, which would experience tax increases as a result of reassessment would have the increase limited to 10% non-compounded over two years based on 1992 taxes; that is, tax increases linked to reassessment would

be limited to 5% in 1993 and 5% in 1994. There would be no further increase until the property is sold or reassessed.

I also indicated earlier with regard to commercial properties; the same for industrial properties. If they face tax increases as a result of reassessment, they will have that increase limited to a total of 25% non-compounded over three years based on 1992 taxes; 10% in 1993; 10% in 1994 and 5% in 1995, with no further increase until the property is reassessed. Commercial properties qualifying for decreases will receive a cut equal to 12% of the total decrease in 1993, rising to 21% in 1994 and to 25% in 1995 and subsequent years.

When we look at the overall reaction of how the proposals are going to take effect, there's a consequence. Companies like CN, CP and Ontario Hydro are facing significant increases in their property taxes. The rail companies estimate that their taxes will increase by between \$40 million and \$45 million annually, or by 325%. The GO Transit share of that bill will jump \$3.8 million, to \$15 million annually.

It's easy to say these amounts of increase that I'm giving you are going to be levied against CP, CN and Ontario Hydro. The taxpayers are paying these increases. They're still coming from the taxpayers. We're asking them to pay more taxes on levies. Is this the way that the government is going to increase its taxes, another part of a scheme to raise more tax money?

When we look at the MVA proposal, it put the NDP government in something of a bind because the party has in the past opposed market value assessment very strongly. At its 1984 policy conference, the NDP adopted a resolution which said in part, "The NDP opposes any further introduction of market value assessment." Moreover, in the 1990 campaign, a number of NDP Metro members campaigned on the claim that they would vote against any legislative action that would enable Metro council to introduce market value reassessment in Metro.

Mr Harnick: Who might they be?

Mr McLean: Marilyn Churley, Tony Silipo, Margery Ward, Elaine Ziemba, Zanana Akande, Minister of Health Frances Lankin. It's also stated that she personally opposed MVA. She stated that in the Legislature. She made a speech to that effect. That's the way it's going to be. But we haven't heard from the others, how they're feeling towards the vote.

It's unfortunate that only late this afternoon did I know there was going to be a vote here tonight at 9 o'clock on this very issue. It would not surprise me if there were a lot of members away. I would anticipate that, not being aware of the vote, there are a lot of members who will not be here.

The government's strong response was dictated by the need to protect its own Metro members without rejecting the Metro proposal and thereby alienating a number of Metro leaders, including the wrath of taxpayers expecting a tax break—implicitly taking responsibility for the Metro tax problem.

On November 5, the Minister of Municipal Affairs said that the government would introduce legislation to permit Metro Toronto council to implement the tax plan. There's been a lot of discussion since that day. I have seen demon-

strations. Today we're seeing a full committee room. It's on TV in that room for those people who know how to get it, and the others who don't will have a problem, because when the Legislature's sitting you probably won't get room 151 that I'm speaking about. But you will be able to see it at another time.

On this whole issue of market value assessment, my colleague the member for Don Mills has been violently opposed to this legislation.

Mr Harnick: York Mills.

Mr McLean: York Mills. He has spoken strongly about it. His residents, his taxpayers, the people he represents must also feel the same way. We have the member for Willowdale, who feels the opposite.

Mr Harnick: No, no, no.

Mr McLean: He doesn't?

Mr Harnick: Half and half.

Mr McLean: He's half and half.

Mr Harnick: He's with the people.

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Mr McLean: Well, I'm going to tell you, he's going to have to make a decision in about an hour's time which part of the people he's going to be with, because—

Mr Harnick: You're making this real easy for me.

Mr McLean: I'm making it real easy for the member for Willowdale, but that is the way this bill has been.

At the start, I was looking at supporting this bill because of the fact that the majority on Metro council voted in favour of it. But the more I look at it, the more I've read the speeches that have been made and the more I see of the bill, I'm beginning to have a hard time voting yes. I really am, because of the implementations that have been on here.

At the start when I had indicated in the explanatory notes what this bill is all about when it refers to the Rent Control Act—amending that, amending the Education Act—we're talking about more here than just about market value assessment, and with regard to people getting decreases and people getting increases. This is a major piece of legislation affecting many properties, thousands and thousands of properties, that's going to affect people's lives for a long time.

As I indicated earlier, the reason I wanted to talk about this bill was to find out a little more about it so that I would have some in-depth knowledge for myself of how I should vote on this bill. I have always, in my 11-some years here as a provincial member, supported my local municipalities. I think when municipalities make a decision it's usually right, except there's one decision the county of Simcoe has made that I have not supported, and that happens to be county restructuring, because I believe that process had been flawed from the start. It was dictated from the ministry. County council made its decision based on that they thought they had to make it or the province would do it for them. I look at the London annexation and Middlesex annexation. There's a lot of dispute there with regard to county boundaries.

In this bill we're dealing with the region of Muskoka. It allows that region to come in to reassess. The bill also

indicates that the county of Oxford, as a regional municipality, will have the opportunity to come in and to change the assessment.

When I look at all the implications within this bill, I have to stop and ask myself, do I support the metros or am I going to support the people who are getting a property tax decrease? When I look at the whole reaction of people who have spoken, there are very few people who want to stand up and say, "Yes, I'm 100% for it" or "I'm against it," because most of the people who have spoken on this bill have said it's flawed.

It's difficult here to vote for a piece of legislation that the majority of the members who have spoken have said is flawed. I'm finding myself in a position where it's hard to support that type of legislation. I'm sure there are many government members who feel the same way, but I also know they are committed to passing this piece of legislation before December 10 because their House leader has said he will have it passed by December 10. So it's going to pass.

We have the free thinkers on all sides of this Legislature who are going to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote. Unfortunately, I guess that's the way the democratic system works if the government has a majority. This legislation came to this House from a majority of councillors, a majority of council. I presume they would be committed to trying to pass that in the best possible amended way that would suit the majority.

We have the hearings going on at the same time. They're going on now in this building. I am looking forward to seeing what amendments are made. This piece of legislation is over 30 pages—38 pages of legislation—so it is a major bill, and it's not to be taken lightly. That's why I wanted the opportunity to speak, so I would have a better grasp of it to realize where my position would finally be, because I'm thinking now I may have to oppose it.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any other members who wish to ask questions or make any comments?

Mr Ruprecht: Sometimes in the course of debates in this legislature there comes a time when a person stands out because of his courage and his reason. I would submit this is such a time, when the member for Simcoe East makes it clear why—he being outside Metro Toronto—he is voting against this bill. He says the current economic climate created by the NDP government makes it very hard for businesses to succeed.

I would submit to you today, looking at the article in the *Globe and Mail* where it says, "Proceed With Caution: Urban Rot Sets In," the person who writes the article, Mr Gary Gallon says:

"One of the biggest environmental problems in American cities is 'urban core rot.' It results when small businesses and middle-income residents escape the high taxes and pollution in the city centres, and move to the suburbs.

"With them, they take the tax base and balanced urban mix that is an essential part of a city. They leave behind crumbling sewage and transportation infrastructures that

can't be paid for. And they leave behind the poor, who can neither pay for the city services nor escape to the suburbs.

"Rot sets in. Slum landlords perch on the decaying buildings like so many vultures. Dirty industries are allowed to remain and are not forced to clean up. Parks go to weed. Streets become unsafe," on and on.

The point being that here is a government like Hannibal: Up with the elephants across the Alps and a stampede sets in. Here they are, they're stampeding towards real destructive elements towards the city of Toronto. I would like to question today, who is the Hannibal of this NDP government? Who is the leader who starts this stampede of elephants coming down the Alps and, to some degree, creating havoc among our cities?

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. The member for Willowdale.

Mr Harnick: I'd just like to comment very briefly on the member for Simcoe East's very considered comments, because as the member for Simcoe East, as a member who is not attached to Metropolitan Toronto, he can look at this issue in a very objective way, and I think he's done that. I think he's pointed out some of the difficulties that we're all having with this bill.

He's taken a look at the commercial impact, tax increases on the commercial sector in the city of Toronto. What's that going to do? What effect is that going to have on the motor that many people say runs this province? What about the impact of a tax increase on residential home owners? He's taken a look at that and he's said, "You know, it's pretty difficult to make people pay more tax now, especially those who can least afford to pay more."

I very much value the remarks of the member, particularly because after having an opportunity to study the bill in an objective way, his conclusion today is perhaps a little bit different, I believe, from the conclusion he was drawing one week or two weeks or three weeks ago.

I do think it's unfortunate—and I'll be speaking about this very shortly—that, whatever happens here, it's a foregone conclusion because the government House leader has said that in a week or a week and a half this bill will be law.

I think that when you take someone like the member for Simcoe East and the objective view that he takes of this, it's a shame to think that what we're now dealing with is a foregone conclusion. I would urge the members of this Legislature to take a hard look at this bill, as the member for Simcoe East has done, and consider whether this should be a foregone conclusion.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Beaches-Woodbine.

Hon Ms Lankin: I also appreciate the contribution that the member for Simcoe East has made. I think it's important to hear the points of views of those municipalities that have had different experiences with this issue or to see different issues to be considered with respect to the municipalities that they come from.

I would point out that it does underline the issue of municipal autonomy with respect to the decision-making around this, and that all other parts of the province have been able to move ahead and to do that kind of planning

and decision-making in the democratic and most accountable forms of government that are closest to the people, those being municipal structures.

That, of course, has been a central dilemma for me with respect to this legislation, one that I'm very supportive of, the fact that municipal governments should have the decision-making power. They are elected, they are accountable with respect to property tax issues, and those decisions should be made at that level. I think the government bill is reflective of that basic principle.

I did want to make one comment. I was concerned. The member raised issues with respect to cabinet ministers on this side and the possibility of their voting against the bill and I actually don't know if he was picking up on comments earlier made by the member for Markham.

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I have stood in this House and made my position very clear with respect to the concept of market value assessment and my opposition to that as a method of property taxation. I have talked about my support for the principle of local autonomy and decision-making and the fact that this bill in fact is representative of Metro's request to implement a plan which is far from market value assessment and my support for ongoing property tax reform over the next number of years.

I've also indicated that as a member of cabinet I would not vote against a government bill which I in fact support as a compromise that has been reached between the disparate interests of those in the city of Toronto and those of Metro within our own caucus. So I wanted to make sure that was clear to the member.

And to the member who raised the issue of Hannibal, may I say I've heard now about the USSR and five-year plans and Hannibal. I'm not sure what any of this has to do with market value assessment.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments? If not, the member for Simcoe East, you have two minutes.

Mr McLean: I'd like to thank the member for Parkdale for the brief comments that he made; also the member for Willowdale. I think that we will hear his remarks shortly, but I want to thank him for the comments that he related to me.

I want to thank the member for Beaches-Woodbine, the honourable Minister of Health. I heard her statement in the House and I enjoyed it thoroughly when she made it. I appreciate the straightforwardness that you showed with regard to that very major issue.

One thing that I didn't touch on—and it hasn't been raised in the comments, but I have a minute and 20 seconds left—during all this debate: The Fair Tax Commission has had no input whatsoever that I'm aware of to the government and any recommendations that may in the long run be looked at as part of re-evaluation of assessments in the province. I'm wondering if there's anything forthcoming from the government with regard to the Fair Tax Commission when we're going to be looking at education, health and many other issues related to it.

When we look at the confusion that has taken place among some of the members here with regard to this very issue, I'm glad I had the opportunity to get up and to put some things on the record that I felt very strongly about, as many other members have. So I just thank the members for their comments and I'll listen to the rest of the debate.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Mr Harnick: It is an important debate and I'm pleased to be able to take part in it. A member like myself, whose riding sits virtually right up the Yonge Street corridor, has a very difficult time—and I wish to be very frank about this—dealing with market value assessment; a difficult time because you have certain beliefs and you also have certain duties and obligations to your constituents to do what's right for them.

This is a debate that unfortunately has pitted neighbourhood against neighbourhood, community against community. It is a policy that has developed that I think has been very divisive, and because of the way this policy has developed and because of the divisiveness that has arisen within our community, I think that right off the bat a warning sign goes up, at least for me, a warning sign that says: "Is this the way we have to develop legislation? Is this the way we have to make our tax system a fair and equitable tax system?" I just don't think that is the way we have to proceed in terms of reforming property tax.

In my neighbourhood, Yonge Street runs virtually right up the centre of my riding. On either side of Yonge Street is probably the oldest section of the city of North York, the original North York community bordering Yonge Street on either side. Those properties, because there's a subway and because they are so accessible to the core of the city of Toronto, have escalated greatly in value.

But let me tell you who lives in those homes. I have in that section of my riding, the original core of North York, a great many seniors and I have a great many young families with children. Those people have seen the value of their homes escalate drastically, and at the same time, and that's through no fault of their own, the rules of the tax game are changing, and the impact on my constituents who border that core is going to be very significant.

Add to that the fact that a lot of those houses are small, bungalow-type houses. They have been very ripe for redevelopment, and a great many of them have been knocked down. The lots are probably 50- to 75-foot frontages and they're relatively deep lots, and on those lots, after the small bungalows have been knocked down, there have been developed large, very expensive homes. When you drive up and down the streets you'll see a neighbourhood that has a lot of new homes and a neighbourhood that still has a lot of the old, traditional bungalows, those affordable homes the young people have purchased, those homes that seniors who purchased them 30 and 40 years ago are now living in.

Those homes, because of their ability to be redeveloped and because of the lot sizes, have escalated greatly in value. Because of that escalation in value, when we go to a market value system, the people who are living in those

neighbourhoods are going to see their taxes going up through no fault of their own.

You come down to the proposition that under market value assessment two families of the same size, with the same earned income, living in equivalent houses in different parts of the city could end up receiving very different tax bills. If you're on the Yonge Street corridor in a small bungalow, where you've been for 30 or 40 years, on a fixed income now because you've retired, you may end up having a tax bill that's considerably more than someone in an equivalent home in a different part of the city. So there's a basic inconsistency here.

I think when I hear the buzzwords "fairness" and "equity," when we have two families living in equal housing and one family is paying more tax because of his home being in the Yonge Street corridor in the traditional area of North York, is that fairness and is that equity? The services they're receiving are the same services, but I don't think it's fairness and equity when the tax bills are grossly different. That's what's happening to a great many of my constituents.

Even more than that, we're now embarking on a program that is not going to answer the long-term question of fairness and equity in property tax once we go down the slippery slope. What I see, now that the compromise has been reached, is a tax system that is really very much maintaining the status quo but with a little bit of pain to those whose taxes are going up and with very little benefit to those whose taxes are going down, because generally, at least in my riding, they're not going down by a great deal. There are some exceptions, but they're not going down by a great deal.

Once we embark upon this tax scheme, I suspect we could come back to this place 10 years from now and there's not going to be anything very different about the property tax system in Metropolitan Toronto.

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I think what we're doing in many respects is perpetuating the status quo with a very marginal adjustment. Those who have been overpaying, or perceive that they've been overpaying for many years, are feeling a little better because that disparity has been reduced, but a year from now, two years from now, three years from now, the disparity will continue to exist. Those whose taxes went up, at least in my riding, are those who can least afford to have their taxes go up and they're going to hurt because of this. Those who are looking for a tax system that was going to create fairness and equity are not going to find it in this scheme.

So I don't know why we're embarking on this particular approach. I don't know why, because we have the Fair Tax Commission. I understand they're reporting as early as next week about their proposals for definitive tax reform in Ontario and within the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto.

Why are we going ahead and doing this now? If we do this now, I put it to you that we're going to be perpetuating a system that is not fair and not equitable and is going to be with us for a long, long time.

Another aspect I want to touch on here is the process that has been involved in developing this scheme. It's interesting that when the market value scheme was announced, all of a sudden throughout September and October we started to have within the city of Toronto all these demonstrations, people stopping traffic, people expressing how badly hurt they were going to be when market value assessment came along. The Metro chairman said: "You know, we never thought of all those problems. We never thought of what would happen if those massive tax increases were implemented. We never thought of that. We never did any impact studies. We'd better step back and see if we can find some other method to correct this."

Then we hear the story of a few Metro councillors going out for dinner, working out a compromise and selling it to their confrères on the Metro council. To me, that is not a process conducive to fair and equitable tax reform, not for the people who live in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, not for the people seeing their taxes decrease, and not for the people seeing their taxes increase. All this scheme is doing is perpetuating the status quo with some marginal adjustments that are not answering the issues of fairness and equity.

There are some other areas that I think are somewhat disturbing about this plan, in addition to what I've already pointed out. We hear so much about how much the city of Toronto has received by way of advantage. I suppose that when they say "the city of Toronto" they're also lumping in with that the centre of my riding. But the city of Toronto ratepayers, I understand, provide 42% of Metropolitan Toronto's education revenues and 38% of Metropolitan Toronto's general revenues, yet that section of Metropolitan Toronto comprises only 32% of the population.

It seems to me that it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand it's because there is so much commerce in that section of the city that it's able to carry a disproportionate load. But when you go ahead and do something that's going to affect that commercial base; when you go ahead and tamper with the amount of tax that that commercial base is going to be paying in what the Premier daily tells us is the deepest recession this province has gone through since the days of the Depression; when you go and tamper with that economic base that so many experts have said is the driving motor not just for Metropolitan Toronto but perhaps for the whole province, when you go and tamper with that fine balance, I shudder to think what would happen if that commercial base, because of these increased taxes, were no longer able to produce the kind of numbers that Metropolitan Toronto needs: 42% of Metro's education revenues from that section of Metropolitan Toronto; 38% of Metro's general revenue from that section of Metropolitan Toronto, which only comprises, I tell you again, 32% of the population. If you tamper with that and you don't know what the outcome is going to be, you may be playing Russian roulette.

I just can't conceive of going ahead and really going about a very half-assed scheme of reforming property tax without performing an economic impact study. I can't conceive that Metropolitan Toronto didn't do that. I can't conceive that the New Democratic government will not take

the time to do that. What they want is to get this done quickly. Even if it's wrong, even if it perpetuates unfairness and inequity, the answer has been, "We've got to get this done and we've got to get it done by the 10th of December, because that's when the Legislature rises."

So what are we doing? We're not going to have any impact studies. We're not going to find out what the impact on that commercial base is going to be. What we're going to do is we're going to start the public hearings at Queen's Park even before we're finished second reading debate. I know that most of the people here have been in this place longer than I have, but I defy any of them to tell me that they've ever been here when public hearings on a bill started before second reading debate was finished.

I can't conceive that this is logical. It just boggles my mind to think that we're still up here debating this issue, and downstairs there are people coming before a committee trying to change the mind of the government in terms of whether this is good or whether this is bad or how to make it better. We're up here still debating the bill and we honestly want people to go in there and think that this is not a farce? I can't conceive of it. I can't conceive of the fact that this government didn't even want public hearings. They didn't want public hearings.

Mr White: Well, don't dignify it with your comments, Charles. Just sit down.

Mr Harnick: It wasn't until the opposition, my party in particular, impressed upon them the importance of letting everyone be heard—

Mr White: Of course.

Mr Harnick: In the face of that, the government House leader said today, before the hearings had even started, before second reading debate was finished, that this bill will be law on the 10th of December. What message are you conveying? The member for Durham is shouting at me, but I ask him, what message are you conveying to the people who come here in good faith to discuss this piece of legislation? What message are you conveying to them? You're conveying to them that you're going through the motions and that you're not proceeding in an honest way, in a forthright way, and that you're not listening to what they have to tell you. I don't care whether you're in favour of this proposal or you're opposed to it; the fact is, in this procedure, the process smells awful.

If I were a member of the public who had to come here and pour my guts out in front of a committee and I knew, on the day that I was there, that the House leader had said the bill is going to be law a week from virtually today and that we're going to have it done and that the hearings are going on in spite of second reading debate not being completed, I don't know what I'd think, but I sure would be disappointed. I sure would be disappointed in this government. I sure would be disappointed that there hasn't been an impact study. I would be disappointed because nobody is taking this seriously; nobody is putting his or her best foot forward to provide a fair and equitable system of property taxation.

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A couple of other matters: vacant land. If you have a piece of vacant land you're going to get killed, because there's no cap on it. Your property tax is going to go up 200%, 300% or 400% on a piece of property that you bought and it's not producing anything for you. It has probably gone down in value and your tax base is going to go up 200%, 300% or 400%.

CP rail and CN rail say this is going to cost them \$40 million to \$50 million. Well, when those companies that offer services to the consumer—you and I—have a bill of an extra \$40 million or \$50 million, they're going to pass it on to the public. For all those people who live in my riding who are going to get marginal decreases—well, they're going to pay it all back when they get on the GO train and have to spend \$20 more every month. That's what it is going to cost them, because that's the way Canadian Pacific is going to get its money back. I can't blame them.

This is the government that professes to look after tenants. They portray all the rest of us as evil, but tenants are not getting any break here. Their taxes are going to be 3% or 4% higher than everybody else's. I don't see the government doing anything to rectify that. They've got an opportunity, but they're not doing anything.

What about hydro? In my riding we had hydro go up 11%, 9% and 8%, and North York Hydro is not going to be protected by these caps. They're going to pass that increase on to my constituents, many of whom are going to have 10% increases in their property taxes. They're going to have 8% increases in their hydro rates. How are people on fixed incomes going to continue to live in a home that they bought 30 years ago and now you're changing the rules in midstream? That's going to hurt people who live in the riding of Willowdale and I fear for those people.

I heard from a gentleman today in my riding who in fact was receiving a significant tax decrease and he's going to get that tax decrease once this bill becomes law. I know this bill will become law, probably in a week. But at the same time, he said to me: "What's going to happen with the separate schools? I understand separate schools are going to face a tax loss here of about \$13 million." He said: "The Brébeuf school in our riding already has 60% of the school in portables, because there isn't enough money to put a proper addition on the school. Now the separate school board that looks after the Brébeuf school is going to have a deficit of a further \$13 million." My constituent said to me: "It's great that I'm getting a decrease, but that's not going to help because I'm a separate school supporter. What are we going to do about that \$13 million?"

So what I point out to you is, this bill is fundamentally flawed. The bill is nothing more than maintaining the status quo, maintaining the inequities that already exist, and once this bill becomes law it's going to be here for a long, long time, because it's going to be a long time before a government brings back a proper, all-encompassing property tax reform scheme once this is finished in this Legislature.

So I don't think this is going to be beneficial in the long run for my constituents. I don't think this is going to be beneficial in the long run for people in the municipality

of Metropolitan Toronto. I think it's going to affect the tax base and the ability of businesses to be successful, and that will be very important for the sustained growth of Metropolitan Toronto.

I'm pleased to have had an opportunity to speak on this bill. I'm pleased there are members here who have come in, as my friend from Simcoe East came in, and indicated that after having an opportunity to study this bill, to reflect upon it, he's gone from being a person in favour of it to a person who may very well vote against it now. I hope other members of this Legislature will have that same opportunity of reflection and I hope they'll be able to vote in a way that is going to best reflect what their constituents want, as opposed to the way the government, the whip and the House leader have dictated they should vote.

I am pleased to have been able to take part in this debate and I hope we can all vote in a way that's going to benefit our constituents.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments? The member for Parkdale.

Mr Ruprecht: I listened to the member for Willowdale, who had a number of good points to make. First of all, he said there are those who look for fairness and equity, and the question he raised was, will they find it? Of course, the conclusion here is obvious: There will be no fairness and there will be no equity. He obviously makes a very good point and I want to congratulate him on it.

The reason why there cannot be any fairness and equity is simply because when you base a whole new tax scheme on 1988 values, which were at the height of the real estate market, how can you find fairness and equity? You simply aren't able to do that.

In addition, how can it be fair that this scheme specifically will exclude vacant lands, which obviously generate no business tax, from any protection from extreme tax increases? Obviously, we have a number of specific instances. In this case, as a result of this discriminatory action, the vacant land holdings of one company alone will experience tax increases under this reassessment plan of \$4.2 million. That will be an increase in taxes of 363%. The member for Willowdale points out these facts and says, "How can there be fairness and equity if one company's vacant land taxes will increase by 363%?"

If this scheme is fundamentally flawed, should the question not be raised: Why is this government trying to bulldoze or trying to elephant, trying to stampede this into acceptance? It's obvious it needs a full re-examination.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments?

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): I have enjoyed listening to the debate that has taken place over the last number of days concerning this very sensitive matter. I've especially enjoyed the arguments made by my colleagues in the Liberal caucus.

I want to say that I agree with many of the points the member for Willowdale made tonight, especially the point about the way the government has handled this whole issue. I frankly don't like the way the government has handled it. I don't like the way they decided to have public

hearings. I don't think it's appropriate on a matter as important as this, which affects the number of people this legislation will affect, to have hearings the way you've planned them.

To have public hearings and full committee hearings while the Legislature is in session is wrong. To have public hearings and full committee hearings on weekends and on occasions when it will be difficult for many people from all parts of the region to participate, to watch or to follow is wrong.

What you're doing is finding the most convenient way for the NDP government to do what the NDP government wants to do. You're not looking for the most convenient, the most practical, the most democratic way of doing something that is in the best interests of the three million people who live in the metropolitan region. For that reason alone, the bill needs to be voted against.

I'm surprised that this government has not learned anything through its trials and tribulations. It doesn't matter what problems they seem to run into; they don't learn any lessons whatsoever.

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The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions or comments? If not, the member for Willowdale, you have two minutes.

Mr Harnick: I appreciate the comments of the member for Parkdale and the member for Windsor.

Interjection: Windsor?

Mr Harnick: Essex South, I'm sorry. I know it's close to Windsor.

I think it's interesting to note in the comments, and having listened to a number of speeches on all sides of this House, that even those who are in favour of this bill recognize that it has significant weaknesses. It creates very significant problems, and I think, because of that, it's incumbent upon all of us to reflect whether this hastily put-together piece of legislation in this disjointed process that we've gone through to get to this stage is really beneficial to the people of Metropolitan Toronto. I tell you, Mr Speaker, that if people think this is going to create fairness and equity in property tax reform, they are sadly mistaken.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate?

Seeing none, Mr Cooke moves second reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 2103 to 2104.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I have a note here, a request that the vote on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, MVA, be deferred until after routine proceedings on December 1, 1992. Signed Dianne Cunningham, chief whip, PC caucus. Therefore, the vote is accordingly deferred.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and Minister of Energy): I understand that there's an all-party agreement to consider orders 58 through 69, inclusive, concurrently.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there consent? Agreed.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Mr Charlton moved concurrence in supply for the following ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Housing
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology
- Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations
- Ministry of the Solicitor General
- Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Minister?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and Minister of Energy): I have no comments, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate? The member for Lawrence.

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): It gives me great pleasure indeed to rise on this occasion to speak to the motion on concurrence in supply. Of course, what we're dealing with is obviously consent by the government to move forward with provisions to allow for expenditures to take place in a variety of ministries.

I think it's important at this point that we review just what's taken place with respect to this administration's conduct as a government, and it's my contention that we have as a province not been well served by this administration at all. It's also obviously the view of many, many people out there in the province of Ontario, who are at this very time shaking their heads with not only regret, I suppose, but in great dismay and sorrow about what they have seen unfold before their eyes in the last couple of years, and in fact the situation hasn't gotten any better. The fact of the matter is that we have seen in the trials and tribulations of this government a whole series of misadventures, a whole series of follies with respect to misguided, misdirected initiatives and greatly missed opportunities.

This government has failed to realize that it is in fact setting the absolutely wrong course for the economy of this province with respect to the sense of purposefulness, the frustration that people feel out there, the lack of understanding, the lack of appreciation for points of view that

are different, points of view that really speak for the need to have that real conciliatory attempt made by the government to bring people together.

It was this administration and this Premier, after having taken office in October 1990, that said: "We want to bring people together. We want to work with people from all walks of life, people who have different points of view, people who do not always agree with us. But we're willing to listen to what you have to say," that fundamental concept about listening to different points of view, consulting with the wide variety of groups so as not to miss what is really at stake, so as not to miss out on opportunities for bringing us forward into the future, which means working with people, which means sitting down with them and understanding what their difficulties are.

Time and again I have heard from a variety of groups and a variety of individuals across the province that they're simply not getting these opportunities from this government whose doors have recently been closed. Oh, there may have been attempts in the beginning to listen to others, and then there was a process whereby certain people felt that there was a great deal of opposition in one area or another.

Bill 40 is a perfect example of that. The minister has claimed that 300 groups were consulted, numerous hours were spent listening to alternative points of view. In fact, what resulted from this exercise was completely diametrically opposed, a polarization of interests in a very difficult and a very dangerous environment for this economy of this great province to flourish, to turn itself around.

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On a number of occasions I have stood in this House—my colleagues have as well, members of the opposition—to point out to the government this very basic and fundamental flaw in its thinking. You cannot say on the one hand, "We're going to bring people together; we're going to be conciliatory," spend hour after hour, hundreds of hours, talking to hundreds of groups of people who have all said basically the same thing, and then not even remotely consider some of the difficulties and concerns that have been expressed. That is simply not the measure of conciliation.

That simply doesn't live up to the kind of rhetoric that was heard from this Premier, Bob Rae, who sounded a conciliatory note, who sounded as though he really and truly wanted to be a great leader, because he was willing to listen to diverse opinions, diverse points of view, and accommodate those views to create the kind of positive environment that would have seen the economy turn itself around in the not-too-distant future. That's in serious jeopardy, my friends.

The fact remains that the economy will turn around at some point. Whether we participate in that world economic turnaround, which is inevitable and which will come some time in the near future—predictions are being made as I speak that 1993 will be a much more positive year. In other places in the world, we're going to see a full turnaround by the end of 1993 and into 1994.

I believe it's appropriate for us in the opposition, as we point out day after day in this assembly the shortcomings,

the shortsightedness, the oversight, if you will, of this government with respect to its initiatives, to say to the government: Of course you're experiencing difficult times. We understand that on this side of the House. We understand that some very difficult decisions have to be made with respect to budgeting, with respect to transfer payments. I think the recipients of those transfer payments understand that, as all members of this House understand that fundamentally.

I think people are willing to work with this government. In fact, once again we heard the language of conciliation, that the government would work with transfer payment recipients who would work with the government to ensure that efficiencies were gained in the budgetary process.

People understand that we're facing difficult times; of course they do. The environment is such that no one expects unrealistically to receive the kinds of increases we were seeing three, four and five years ago. What's at issue here is not that. I think that point has been made repeatedly by both the Treasurer and other observers. The world has changed. We live in a very difficult period of time economically. People out there understand that.

They understand also that as we all have to undertake restraint, so too does the government. Once again, the government must lead by example. What irritates me is the use of symbols. If you're going to use that, that's fine. Freezing salaries for top civil servants, members of Parliament and cabinet ministers etc is all understandable, but I think by the same token, the government has to say to itself, "We have to abide by this process of restraint or this imposition of restraint."

It's difficult to stand here and understand how the government is going to allow, for example, the Workers' Compensation Board to move ahead with its plans to build a new edifice at a price tag of \$200 million at a time when there's enormous excess waste in the city of Toronto. There are millions upon millions of empty square feet and the Workers' Compensation Board has indicated, and its board of directors I understand made this decision, that it is going to build this new complex. Seventy per cent of it will be occupied by the Workers' Compensation Board for its uses and the other 30% will be leased out.

Well, isn't that the height of ridiculousness? How absurd. How can you lease out the other 30% of the unoccupied space in this building when no one else wants the other 27 million square feet that's already empty? There's just no use for it. So I see that there's a flaw in the plan with respect to what the Workers' Compensation Board has already decided to move forward with.

There are numerous examples of misdirected and misguided initiatives. The government has decided in its recent announcements on the budget for transfer payment recipients—in effect, it's using the 2% solution. We know that, in fact, it's not 2% and in many cases it could be minus 2%. There's a range there of payments to the transfer recipients which could ultimately lead to a reduction in transfers and a reduction in the amount that's actually been paid over last year of 2%, and the wholesale removal of some programs.

The community living people were here to visit us last week and the depth of concern, in fact, the almost desperate situation that a lot of people find themselves is

unbearable. I heard from parents of autistic children who had a great deal of difficulty. The special needs program is being cut.

A lot of this kind of funding was really cost-efficient and in fact the kind of initiatives we had undertaken as a government when we were in power with respect to community-based care, respite care which served an incredibly useful purpose for parents who found themselves in that very difficult situation and who had disabled children who were challenged and found respite care was the only solution for them, the kinds of special needs funding that enabled these parents to carry on in some normal fashion resembling our daily lives that we take for granted. I say to the government, when you're going to make these kinds of cuts occur for the neediest people in our society, I can't accept that. And that's not saying that we want it both ways.

Interjection.

Mr Cordiano: No, it's not because there are enough areas or examples of other kinds of cuts that can be made.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Just give us one.

Mr Cordiano: Oh, there are lots. You know, to allow for all the increases—the member says, "Give us examples." Well, when they took office, immediately there was \$500 million that went out in the form of additional pay in wages and salaries to a variety of interest groups which had supported this government, friends of the government who received those dramatic increases, and then they turned around and said: "Well, it was the fault of the Liberals who had this deficit. This was pre-programmed spending from a variety of sources. The Liberals were at fault. They allowed this deficit to occur."

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In the meantime, however, they spent an additional \$600 million on one thing or another: increases in the OHIP fee schedule for doctors; increases in the pay scale for nurses. They rescinded the promise with respect to teachers' pension plans. They did a variety of things which they got in at the beginning and blamed the Liberals for—misguided expenditures which are now coming home to roost, which are beginning to be felt in the most serious of ways. What do we get from this government? Cutbacks to the most needy—special needs funding which has been eliminated.

I just say to this government that that's is not acceptable, not even for your party, not even for a party around here that's been in government. Opposition parties can't stomach that. Not even the Tories can stomach that. I just say to you that once again I think it comes down to misguided priorities, not having a sense of direction, not having a sense of where this government wants to be, where this government is taking the economy. This government fails to realize that yes, we're in a difficult situation. We all understand that, as I said earlier, but the point is, it's how you deal with a difficult situation, it's how you move forward, it's how you deal with a difficult economy.

No one is going to judge this government on the basis that expenditures have not increased. Expenditures haven't

been made in new areas. People realize that that can't be possible now. People realize that what we have to do is maintain essential services. This government has talked about maintaining essential services, but in the meantime they've spent on a whole bunch of other things which were not, in my opinion, of the highest priority. To talk about 2% increases and wages which some of the contracts that have been negotiated over the last year or so—2% and 3% increases are, I think, irresponsible.

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): Compared to what?

Mr Cordiano: It's irresponsible in the context of this economy.

The government has indicated that it wants to work with people, wants to try to limit increases, wages, wage settlements, and then it allows 2% wage increases. Two per cent does not sound like a lot compared to the world of 1988. But 2% is a lot of money today. A 2% increase is a considerable increase in today's environment when inflation is running at only 1.6% right across the country. In fact, in Metro Toronto we have deflation. So, I'd say that these things are measured against the backdrop of today's economic situation. In that regard, this government is failing in a whole host of areas.

I will want to deal with the initiative of the government to bring about casino gambling. In my area of critic's responsibility I have on many occasions talked about this issue, and I want to make mention of some important facts which are coming to light at the present time with respect to the government's decision to move ahead with a pilot project for casino gambling in the city of Windsor. On numerous occasions I've said to the government, "Look, it's understandable that the citizens of Windsor and the city of Windsor want to move forward with this proposal." On this side of the House we recognize that Windsor and border communities like it face very serious circumstances, have had irreparable damage done to their economies—Windsor and Sault Ste Marie, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and a variety of other border communities. The negative effects of cross-border shopping and, prior to this, the lack of Sunday shopping, I think, contributed negatively to the fortunes of the retailers in those border communities.

It is no wonder that the people in the city of Windsor are embracing the concept of casino gambling with open arms. They are desperate. They are desperate to find a solution to their problems. I say to this government, it's fine to move forward with this initiative, because the people of Windsor need this initiative to work for them. They need something positive. They need to get their economy going in the city of Windsor. But by the same token, I say to you, Mr Speaker, they've held out this carrot to the city of Windsor, but what they failed in and what the minister has failed to point out—and I think the minister has some time ago recognized—is the fact of revenue-sharing.

At first she said, "Yes, well, we're going to look at the possibility of sharing revenues from the casino with the citizens and the local municipality of Windsor," some time ago in the spring, and then in the fall, after having conferred with the Treasurer and the rest of her colleagues in

the cabinet, came back to us and said: "No, there's absolutely no way that we can share revenues. All the revenues that will be generated from the casino in Windsor will go into the provincial treasury, and what the city of Windsor will get are the incredible spinoff benefits."

Well, I'm not convinced that the spinoff benefits will be so incredible. I've a great deal of concern with respect to the so-called spinoff benefits. It remains to be seen whether in fact the spinoff benefits will accrue to the city of Windsor as has been pointed out by the minister and by this government. I think it would have been much appropriate for the government of the day to allow for a sharing of the revenues generated from the casino in Windsor, because it would have recognized some very essential factors about casino gambling and the kind of casino economy that's created.

It is a casino economy. We hear rumblings about the city of Detroit looking to have a casino. There will be, potentially, competition from across the border at various points along that border. There's already a casino across the border from Sault Ste Marie, which draws like a magnet from Sault Ste Marie. I believe that the competition is inevitable for these cities. I think the spinoff benefits will be lessened, diminished by the competition that's created, and that in fact these cities will be hard pressed to meet the demands and the needs that evolve from a casino-type economy. I hope that's not the case, and will be looking at this very closely to ensure that the city of Windsor is not shortchanged by this government.

Additional services will have to be provided in the form of policing, and additional social services will have to be provided. I believe that those will be formidable costs for the city of Windsor, and I do not think this government has recognized that to the extent that it should, so I'll be looking to see that this government makes good on its promise to enable the city of Windsor to have the kind of economic spinoffs which it should have from this decision.

This government talks about having attracted some foreign investment, the Premier's latest trip to Asia. He talked about meetings with various corporations, Toyota being one of them, and the possibility of a plant being located in Ontario.

It was my colleague the member for Wilson Heights who pointed out today that that's probably an unlikely scenario, that he would be very surprised indeed if Toyota moved ahead with this decision for additional investment in the province of Ontario.

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We are, on this side of the House, extremely concerned, and it's not because we are being partisan about this. If there was enough good news, we wouldn't be able to say this. We wouldn't have to say this. We wouldn't have to stand up and point out the seriousness of the situation with respect to a lack of investment. You know, the old argument is that people around the world will look at what we're saying and its being negative. The fact is, I don't think that by pointing out the concerns we have, the people around the world are especially going to look at exactly what the opposition is saying. I think it's far more important what the government is saying, or not doing or

not saying. I think that's what people are assessing. People are looking at this government, around the world, and they get negative signals. They don't get positive signals.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Only from the opposition.

Mr Cordiano: Oh, they're very negative signals. Bill 40 is one example, as I've pointed out. The insurance industry, for example, looking at the provisions that have been brought forward for winding down business and restrictions and costs of doing that; that's in the new bill the minister has brought forward with respect to auto insurance. That's devastating stuff. People around in the insurance business have looked at that and said that will destroy any possibility of any new investment coming to this province. It's an absolute, unmitigated disaster.

We have seen a tremendous dropoff in investment dollars in this province—tremendous. In fact, we are continuing to lose jobs, as my leader has pointed out on numerous occasions, at an alarming rate, just an appalling rate, and this government has blamed Ottawa.

Interjection.

Mr Cordiano: Well, you've done that. You've blamed Brian Mulroney. That's fine.

Hon Mr Wildman: Do you think he's blameless?

Mr Cordiano: No, I don't think he's blameless, but I think you're as culpable as he is in a lot of areas.

The fact is, you've blamed free trade. You know, the effects of free trade can and should be blamed to some extent but, quite frankly, I think there are a lot of gains that have been made as a result of the free trade agreement and we should work on those positive aspects of the agreement which enable us to move forward, instead of continuing to fight—at least that's what the rhetoric is, that they've blamed free trade, they've blamed the federal government, they've blamed the federal government for the lack of transfer payments. They've blamed just everybody else but themselves, and I think it's appropriate for this government to start looking at just exactly who is to blame. All of these problems are not the result of somebody else's doing alone.

For all the Premier's efforts to sound conciliatory—and he does this in a very apt way; he's quite good at it—I say to him, "Look, once in a while, sit back and say, 'Maybe we haven't done all the right things with respect to the economy and perhaps we've made some mistakes.'"

No, instead, he comes up with an apology for his bungling ministers and their misadventures, and he says, "We've been more scrutinized than any other administration in the history of this province." Nonsense; utter nonsense. You know that's not the case. The fact is that there are enough things to look at and that's simply the reason people are examining, in a critical way, as they should, what this administration is all about.

It's one series of events after another, and it's not somebody else's fault that there are these foibles in your caucus, that things don't go properly, the way you think they should. It's your own fault.

People are human—the Premier points this out—they make mistakes. We all understand they make mistakes. I don't think anyone on this side of the House or anyone

looking at this would not say to the government: "Yes, you can make mistakes. We're all human, we're not perfect." But it's not somebody else's fault. If you make mistakes, that's fine, but you have to live up to them. You have to be able to say straightforwardly: "Look, we've made mistakes but we're going to correct them. We're going to work with all interested parties to make sure these mistakes do not become a recurring theme."

That's just exactly what concerns us on this side of the House. It's no wonder we're led to believe there is a theme running through all of this, that in fact this is the way the government operates and these mistakes are symptomatic of what's wrong in that administration. It's no wonder we sit here with a great deal of alarm, trying to comprehend just what is taking place over there. When you have the kinds of incidents that occur in the Premier's office, the highest office in the land—

Mr Bisson: Land?

Mr Cordiano: This land, the province of Ontario. It's land; it's not sea. It's not what you think right now. You're on the ocean and you're losing your way. We have our feet on the land. This is precisely why I'm pointing this out to you, because you don't.

What's taking place over there is, we believe, a systematic approach to handling these problems. The Premier stands up time and time again and says: "I'm taking action to correct these problems. I've called in the police to investigate this or investigate that."

My friends, I say to you, it's time to examine the ethos of this government, to examine the way in which you're operating. That's what we've called for. We've called for an examination of the Premier's office, not to ascertain criminal wrongdoing—we understand there's a police investigation. At the very least, we've said to the Premier, "Allow the investigation to be carried on and, once it's concluded, then allow a committee of this Legislature to examine the operations of your office to ensure and reassure the people of the province that there isn't a systematic approach to handling these problems in the way that's been exemplified by this administration."

We are deeply concerned that in your efforts to silence people who are critics of this government—this is why I pointed out that in the beginning the government sounded conciliatory, sounded as though it wanted to work with all parties, sounded as though it wanted to work with people who were opposed to it, both on ideological grounds and for practical reasons. I think it's appropriate to point out at this time that our concerns are not unfounded. They stem from the fact that what we heard in the beginning and what we're seeing now are completely incongruous. It's no wonder that we sit here flabbergasted.

The opposition, being what it is, is going to question these things. You can't expect people on this side of the House not to question these matters in as critical a way as we are. What we're talking about is the fundamental integrity of this administration, of any government. If we do not have that in place and if there is a question about the integrity of this government, don't you think it's wise to clear it up as soon as we can so we can put that behind us?

We would like to do that because, as the Premier has pointed out, he wants to deal with the substantive matters of the day. I say to you, members of this government, that it's difficult to do that when we have hovering around us these very fundamental questions of integrity. If it's not the case that there's a systematic effort on the part of some people, perhaps, or some branch of this administration and parts of the Premier's office—I don't know—then let's get it straight.

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Yes, we're going to have a police investigation. Yes, it's under way. The Premier could simply allude to that. Yes, he can do that, and he has done that. He has done that, according to his obligation and duty to do that. His office calls him to do that. I think it's also appropriate for him, at this point, to have indicated that he's not unwilling to allow us to examine all members of this House and of this assembly to satisfy ourselves that his office is operating in a way that can reassure the citizens of this great province that they will not be attacked in the kind of way we have seen occur, in the method, in the systematic way that it's been conducted against Judi Harris.

I think that's fundamental. I think that's fundamental, and I stand here today and say to you that it's difficult to discuss these matters with respect to the conduct and the integrity and the fundamental right of a government to govern. It's difficult to raise these matters day after day. It's difficult for members of the opposition and all members of this House to have to deal with this question. I think it's a complete waste of time if the government insists on hiding behind the police investigation for all time. I think it would have been very appropriate for the Premier of this province to have indicated in questions we've asked that he would not be averse to a legislative committee examining this entire question, to clear the air once and for all and, if there were serious wrongdoing, for him to say very clearly that the wrongdoers would be punished. That has to be maintained; the integrity has to be maintained at all costs.

So I say to you that it is difficult for not only members of the opposition but, I think, all citizens to not sit bewildered as to the appropriateness of the operations of this government when they have some serious questions that need to be answered. Yes, the Premier has pointed out that other incidents of a serious nature have occurred at other times in other administrations.

You know, it's not the incidents; it's how you handle them. Yes, this is a different world today, and calling inquiries is a difficult matter. We understand that. But what we've suggested is an examination to be undertaken by a legislative committee of this House. Well, the Premier sits there and says, and his colleagues will say, "It's a highly charged partisan committee and you would never get an unbiased examination of the facts." I say that's wrong. I say that's entirely wrong because it is a public forum. It's open for all the interested parties to be present, to follow the proceedings of this legislative committee. I think that would be appropriate, and I don't think that anyone would doubt, in the end, the facts. What we're interested in are the facts. Yes, there will be a lot of rhetoric, but we know

that the good citizens of this province will examine the facts and will come to their own assumptions. They always do, whether it's now or at the next election. We know that they come to their own assumptions. Let no one be mistaken about that. It's been proven time and again and it was proven in the last election, as we all witnessed.

The government is no doubt facing difficult times, but I believe that things will improve. The economy of this province is in difficult, dire straits, but things will improve around the world in the following 12 months. Things already seem to be improving in the US; consumer spending is up. There are some positive signals elsewhere in the world that the world economy may indeed pick up. Projections are that somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3.9% growth can be expected for this country, and there are other parts of the world where that may even be higher.

I think the government has its own forecasters who are making certain assumptions and I think those assumptions can be questioned at times. But I think there's a growing consensus that we are in an upturn economy, that things will improve over the next 12 months. As a result of that, we have to examine what this jurisdiction intends to do to take full advantage of any possible upturn in the economy so that we do not miss opportunities, as we have been missing them, even in a recession.

There are jurisdictions in the world that have undertaken initiatives which are strengthening their economy, even at times of recession. I'm not suggesting that the government undertake these massive expenditures for this or for that. I would say this, however: that the capital works projects that the government has lauded as being the answer to the critics who say that the government hasn't done anything on the economy—if you examine a lot of these initiatives, they aren't happening quickly enough, particularly with some of the plans around Metro for rapid transit expansion and road expansion. We saw delays with respect to the plans being put forward, the subway loop in the north of the city up to Keele.

I would like to see that speeded up because that could provide immediate work for the countless thousands of construction workers in my riding and elsewhere who actually do not need to be trained, who are sitting on the sidelines, who are sitting at home perhaps collecting unemployment insurance and in some cases now desperate enough to have to go on social assistance. These are thousands of people, thousands of workers, who do not need to be trained and can become very useful to the economy and very productive almost immediately.

The plans call for five to 11 years for completion of these projects. I honestly believe that these things can be speeded up so that we would have expenditures at double the rates. That would create significant numbers of jobs which would provide the kind of stimulus that's so essential at this present time.

The government has failed to do this with respect to its capital works and it has missed a glorious opportunity to turn around, at least in Metro Toronto, the savaged economy of this municipality. There are a number of initiatives that are required. The government cannot do it alone, but certainly the kinds of expenditures on infrastructures that

can be made aren't being made. That, I say to you, would create meaningful work, productive work and it would have an impact on this jurisdiction, the municipality of Metro Toronto. I'm sure there are capital works in other parts of the province that can be speeded up.

2150

Members of the governing party would say, "Well, where is this money going to come from?" It's a question of priorities, I say to you. In fact, it's a mere pittance, what they've planned to spend in terms of capital works. The kinds of expenditures we've seen to date are the kinds of expenditures that used to occur every year when we were the government. The increases are not significant. In fact, in some areas there are no increases at all on capital expenditures. So I would say to the government, there's a lot more that you can do in this regard to get people back to work, and that's the best way in which the government can be involved.

It all comes back, once again, to the whole question of attracting investment. There is investment going on in the world. People are getting ready for a turnaround in the economy. That's taking place right now in other jurisdictions around the world. I think to just simply say we have a world recession, that it's the federal government, Brian Mulroney, free trade—you name it—only goes so far, my friends. At some point you have to do certain things against which backdrop, in the context of governing in this province, people would measure your accomplishments.

I think reasonable, objective observers would say, "Look, the government can only do so much." I agree with that proposition. The government can't be the answer to everything. We on this side of the House understand that—fundamentally. We're not asking the government to do a lot of things in a lot of areas. Of course, where they shouldn't be involved they are getting more involved and at a very inappropriate time.

But in the final analysis it would be wise for this administration to look at, once again, propositions and initiatives which would seek to attract investment. We need investment in this jurisdiction. We have seen over the years that the economy of this province, in fact of this whole country, depends a great deal on the flow of investment dollars for its success. The whole history of this country has involved foreign investment and from time to time it has come under question.

But we now live in an age where the economy is global, where investment can go anywhere in the world and in fact countries around the world seek to attract investment. Foreign investment is not such a dirty thing. It leads to the creation of jobs. It leads to the standard of living to which we have become accustomed. It leads to increases in the kinds of meaningful work. We have no choice in today's economic environment. We should do everything to attract that investment and we're simply not doing it in this province.

Investors do look at policies and initiatives. Once again I will reference my colleagues' remarks today. The member for Wilson Heights has pointed out that people around the world have suggested that it is not the referendum that failed, it's not a variety of other issues like free trade or the

NAFTA agreement; it is the very fact that the policies of this administration do not look attractive and in fact do not look at all positive to people who are attempting to invest in plants and equipment, looking to set up new factories around the world.

This jurisdiction does not look as attractive as it used to for those reasons and you have to share some of the blame for that. You have to be willing to admit that certain of these policies have become questionable.

I don't think the members on the other side can sit there and say to themselves honestly that the controversy surrounding Bill 40 and the controversy surrounding the changes in the auto insurance bill that was put forward—that investors have not looked at that and that those initiatives have not had a negative impact. They most certainly have. I don't think there's a member on that side who can honestly say that. You may wish to suggest, "We understand that, but we're moving forward because we have to, for a variety of reasons, because we promised this," and once in a while you do what you said you were going to do.

Of course, there are countless examples of reversals which, I think, in the long run serve this province well. The fact that the government did not move ahead with public auto insurance is a positive thing and I think most people who were giving opinions on this matter were satisfied with the system as it was and did not want to see a public auto insurance system imposed on the people of this province. The government, in that case, listened to the vast majority of Ontarians and decided not to move forward with that election promise.

I think you need to examine a variety of other initiatives or policies. I think it's important that we be careful in terms of the kinds of long-term impact that will have on the economy. I know the government has attempted to make a number of corrections—restraint is the order of the day—but I say it has not really come clean with respect to the way in which it's moving forward, as I pointed out earlier.

As I said, people can live with parameters, with limitations, if they understand what they are. After a significant process of consultation, I think they would be able to live with those things because they understand we live in a difficult world, a difficult economy. But you need to make people truly your partner in order to do that and at that you have failed, and failed miserably.

I think it's important for this government to understand that in order to have some success in the future, in order for this economy of this province to turn around, it needs to do a lot better with respect to the private sector. The perceptions are all wrong. If someone were even to agree with the fact that you've stated time and again that people are being unfair about the criticism which they've levelled against this government—and I know, as I said earlier, the Premier in his speech the other day to his own party said, "We are being examined in the most critical of ways, in a way that has never been seen by any administration."

Those are the standards that he himself set and he has no one to blame but himself. Those are the high standards that he said he would live up to. Those are the standards that he said were better than any other administration. "We can live up to those very high standards because we are

better. We will prove to the people of this province that we're going to earn their trust and their respect because our standards are better."

I say to you those are lofty words, Mr Speaker, lofty words indeed.

2200

It's one thing to say, "Look, we're going to approach this thing, with respect to governance, as a serious business." Yes, that's fine, understandable. People in the province want that to go forward. Anybody would. But by the same token, it's another thing to make pronouncements at the start of this administration's life not only about what this government intended to do but to look back and say: "Those people who were here before us, we're not like them. We're better. We're far better, in fact. Our standards are much higher and the people of this province will come to realize that, not because of our words but because of our actions. They will realize that we have what it takes."

You know, I must say that we in the opposition in the first year of this administration's life, I think, gave it an opportunity to demonstrate that. The fact that we are now so critical is only as a result of the series of incidents that we've seen, that we have witnessed in this assembly repeatedly, and there is no question that we have to raise these matters. For members of the government to say now, "You're being unfair; you're being highly critical and highly partisan," is completely irresponsible on their part, because we are the opposition and we must be critical when it's deemed to be necessary.

I ask you, Mr Speaker, at what time is it more appropriate than now to be very critical, when the very integrity of a government is at stake? This issue will not simply die away. It will not.

As I said earlier in my remarks, the Premier would go a long way towards accomplishing that if he simply recognized that in order to clear the slate we need to get to the bottom of this. We would be willing to wait until the police investigation is concluded, but at that time we would want to ensure and reassure the people of this province that there is not a systematic approach to dealing with these incidents, that there is not a hint of a coverup.

I don't want to believe that. I don't think any member of this assembly wants to believe that. In fact, I do not believe that, but I want you to prove that, if not for me, then for the people of the province. I want there not to be a shadow of a doubt.

I don't have the words of the throne speech that brought this administration into power, into being, but if I can recall, those were lofty words indeed, and I am paraphrasing from that: "There must not be even the perception of inappropriate deeds and actions."

But it's difficult. It's much more difficult today to stand in our place as opposition and to simply allow the government to proceed, without questioning these very extremely fundamental questions of integrity. It is difficult to accommodate the government's view that we have to get on with other business, to steer away from questions surrounding the Piper affair. It is very difficult indeed for us because we really believe that the Premier has not cleared this matter up in its entirety. We are not convinced, and I think that

thousands of other people in the province are not convinced, and it's precisely because of that that we need further examination of the facts. We need further enlightenment on just what took place.

It's not good enough to simply suggest that no other person was involved. We find that incredible. Is it possible that one person, no doubt of deputy minister status, had acted entirely on his own, entirely on his own initiative, and conducted his affairs without the knowledge of other people around him? Communications is what Mr Piper was charged with the responsibility of conducting, and by the very definition of "communications," I would say to you that it would be very difficult for me to understand how someone in his capacity would have not spoken to his colleagues, the media, talked to other people in the Premier's office at his level, would have acted without someone else there recognizing and understanding the full extent of these very, I would say, despicable deeds.

To undertake that kind of initiative, I think—and it's been pointed out by other members—calls into question the safety and security of people's private and personal matters. When a government can do that, when a government can undermine someone's privacy, someone's confidential documents, privileged information, if that is indeed what we're dealing with here—I understand that the police investigation will get to the bottom of that, but if that's what we're dealing with, then we on this side of the House find it very difficult indeed to accept that this would have taken place in complete isolation, singlehandedly, by one individual.

If that's the case, then we've got to question how the Premier's office operates in its entirety. If there was no wrongdoing, then we want to question how it is that this could have been undertaken in complete isolation and that at this high level there wasn't someone else to whom Mr Piper would have conferred this information.

To get to the bottom of it, we would clear up these questions, and I think all of us would be satisfied once we have that assurance that the Premier's office was not being systematically conducted in a fashion that we find very inappropriate, and I think most citizens of this province would. We want to clear that up. We want to do it for all of us in this assembly, get to the bottom of that matter.

As I said, we have to continue to ask questions about this because it strikes at the very heart of what constitutes the fundamental right of any government to govern, and that is to have the confidence of the people it governs. Without that confidence, it is very difficult indeed to proceed. It is very difficult for a government to move forward with its plans and its initiatives when the people who are being governed do not have any confidence in the institutions that are governing them. So I say to you, Mr Speaker, the best thing this Premier could do at this time would be to clear the air and get this entirely behind us.

2210

There are just too many areas to cover and I think it would be appropriate for me to allow one of my colleagues to carry on this debate, but in conclusion, I would like to say that this government has to refocus its efforts with respect to the economy, understanding that there will be

some positive economic news in the new year, that there will be an upturn that will occur around the world.

You will be judged against that. If this jurisdiction does not see any positive gains when economic recovery is occurring throughout the world and we see gains in other jurisdictions, then it is exactly as we say when we point out time and again to this government that this jurisdiction is suffering as a result of the policies and initiatives that have been undertaken by this administration. We will find that the test will be when the economy turns around, if we do not see a similar turnaround in the economy of this province as will be occurring in other jurisdictions in proximity to us. We see already that it's not encouraging, because Ontario is lagging behind the rest of the country with respect to its performance economically. It's not an encouraging sign.

I say to the members opposite on the government benches, let's not prejudge. Let's give you an opportunity next year to see what happens with the economy in this province. I know it's worrisome for a great number of people, because these policies and initiatives that have been undertaken by this administration are in place now and are having the kinds of negative consequences that we have been talking about repeatedly.

Hon Mr Wildman: "Repeatedly" is right.

Mr Cordiano: Yes, and we will continue to repeat our concerns because it takes repetition to get this through. You have to revisit your approaches when there simply haven't been the initiatives, the directions. The Premier, going over to Asia, talks about business in Ontario as not having pulled up its socks and not able to compete on a level footing with other jurisdictions. Quite frankly, it's not encouraging. We've got to start hearing positive signals from this government. We've got to start hearing initiatives that speak to the kinds of concerns all of us have heard around this province. Let's see some initiatives that do not just say, "Look, we're going to spend this money or that amount of money in that area," without recognizing the kind of impact that will have.

I realize and all of us realize that discretionary revenue simply isn't there for the kinds of expenditures that would be required to stimulate the economy, but the Treasurer of this province, back in 1991, was warned that he alone could not take us out of this recession by spending at the rate of a 13% increase over the previous budget. That simply would not result in economic spinoffs. Spending of a certain kind results in a multiplier effect. Certain kinds of spending in certain sectors will result in that multiplier effect in some cases being five or six times the expenditure, and in other cases, being far less than that. I think that's what this government has failed to realize, that the kind of expenditure on capital works—I think they've realized that a little too late, and they did not spend as much money as I would have liked to see in expenditures on capital projects, capital works.

That's the kind of thing that should have been undertaken by this government initially, back in 1991, in its first budget: to increase capital expenditures, to keep the construction industry operating at a far more significant level

than it is today. I think the climate for investment would have been much more positive than it is today, not even considering the kind of legislation that has been brought forward by this government. But we're talking about a situation now where if the government increases expenditures, it's not going to be able to do it significantly enough.

What I think needs to be done at this point is to look at some serious cuts in some areas which have to be made. Yes, the time has come to look at some areas, and we have to be straightforward about it. But I think you need to get your priorities straight, and it's going to be the case in this House that you're going to get questions that will be critical when you bring forward idiotic initiatives of the kind that we see coming out of the WCB. That's simply an unjustifiable expenditure because it's not, in our opinion, economically viable at this time. Expenditures on building office towers are not something that I would call infrastructure spending that's going to have the kind of impact that I'm talking about; expenditures on rapid transit and transportation in general are. Any way you look at it, whether it's WCB funding for that project—and obviously that will have to come—it's taking money out of the economy. So you can't deny the fact that that's the kind of expenditure which I think, in terms of its multiplier effect, yes, will create construction work, but in the long term is not justifiable.

So I say we have to look at cuts in areas where there is a lot of waste, where that multiplier effect is not so significant. You have to do that, because there simply isn't going to be the revenue generation that existed there before. You have to look at doing that with respect to a number of areas. It's difficult to cut any area, but you're going to have to do that. That's the environment we live in.

We're going to measure and be critical of your actions in that regard: more focused spending which will have that multiplier effect. That's what we're going to measure it against. So as we look to the future which will unfold in the next fiscal year of this government, as the Treasurer prepares for a new budget in the spring, we're going to be looking at those critical questions. I for one will be looking at expenditures in capital works, expenditures that will have that multiplier effect which will lead to long-term jobs in the construction industry, and at expenditure cuts in those areas which will not have that kind of impact. Essentially, it's going to have to come down to that.

In the end, people will judge this government on questions of integrity, questions of its ability to correct its inadequacies, and this Premier's action or lack of action with regard to those areas. Ultimately, the people will judge. People will make those kinds of judgements one way or another, at election time or sooner. The Premier could take the initiative, as I said, to clear the air, and if he wants to show true leadership, that's exactly what he should do.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate on concurrences.

2220

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I'm pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the concurrences in supply for the various ministries. We're dealing with them all, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of

Health, Education, the Ministry of Housing, Transportation, concurrence in supply for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, concurrence in supply for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, concurrence in supply for the Ministry of the Environment, Consumer and Commercial Relations, Natural Resources, the Solicitor General, and Tourism and Recreation, and I plan on touching on every one of those subjects.

I know that you'll be delighted to hear my remarks and I will spend the first part mainly on the Ministry of Natural Resources, for which I'm our spokesperson. I am sure that the minister will have some interjections along the way. I'm very positive of what I'm about to say. However, the government may not think they are as positive as I do.

For those people who are in Thunder Bay, Timmins and North Bay who are sitting there tonight, I will assure you that I will be finished by 11 o'clock so that you'll have the opportunity to watch the local news. I just want to let you know that if you listen, you will hear many different things about the concurrences and how this government is operated.

Hon Mr Wildman: Speak to the people in Fort Frances. You get an extra hour.

Mr McLean: I also want to talk to them in Wawa too, Minister of Natural Resources, so that they will hear my comments. It's nice to see the Speaker back in the chair and I welcome this opportunity to provide a few comments on the motion for concurrence in supply.

I have some very real concerns about the policies coming from this Minister of Natural Resources. I sincerely believe that he is jeopardizing the future of Ontario's forest industry, putting our natural resources at risk, implementing a series of tax grabs and threatening the role of our provincial park system in providing a wide range of recreational opportunities and in its contribution to the social and economic life of the regions in which parks are located and the protection of the unique historical and natural values associated with our parks.

The minister's policies are threatening Ontario's forest management and jobs. The minister has little regard for the long-term consequences of his actions. During the 1980s there was a vision and a plan with respect to forest management renewal and sustainability. Sadly, that is not the case today. Somewhere along the way, driven in large part, I suspect, by quick fixes, narrow issues and vested interests, this government has lost sight of any form of commitment to our forest industry. This government has closed its eyes to the vision and set aside the plan.

There has been a series of policy decisions on the part of the minister and this government that runs counter to any semblance of responsible resource management whatsoever. On February 12 of this year the minister announced Operation Tree Plant, which was really a stunning retreat in terms of the province's commitment to tree planting. The so-called Operation Tree Plant really means the government is actually planting 35 million fewer trees this year than it did previously. Clearly, this is not responsible or professional forest management.

On March 24 the minister dropped the other shoe when he announced that four of Ontario's 10 tree nurseries will be closing: the Chapleau and the Gogama facilities this year and the Thunder Bay and Midhurst sites next year. The Midhurst site, one with better-quality trees grown and with a productivity of approximately 85%, is being closed. We have received letters and resolutions from county council condemning that closing of the Midhurst tree nursery, which I am well aware of. It's approximately three miles from the farm that I have on Highway 93 north of Barrie so I'm very familiar with that area. The Midhurst tree nursery, as I said, has underground water sprinklers; it's one of the most up-to-date and one of the best and to see it closed is a sorry state of affairs in many, many people's opinion.

This decision was not based on any long-term forest management considerations, vision or planning but because of fiscal desperation. What this minister is doing seriously threatens forestry regeneration and the future of our province's forest product industry. The minister's current budget allocations—approximately \$130 million to forestry over the next three years—he plans to chop by \$100 million, \$40 million to be slashed in the first year alone, going totally counterproductive to what the minister had indicated he wanted to go.

So obviously the minister's commitment to Ontario's forest is dead and, to add insult to injury, the minister's misguided decisions are all made at the height of a recession when we need this kind of investment the very most.

The Ontario Silviculture Association estimates that 2,000 to 3,000 jobs, mostly for students, were eliminated in forestry and in their industry by the minister this summer. The ministry itself estimates that the closing of the four tree nurseries will cost 50 permanent jobs and 180 temporary positions.

Interestingly, Thunder Bay city council has endorsed a report from the local Tree Seedling Growers' Association which called on the NDP to ensure that 165 million trees are planted annually. In the Thunder Bay region alone, the minister's cutbacks are costing an estimated 770 jobs, but the impact is being felt right across the province.

The cuts in the forest regeneration program seriously jeopardize the future of our provincial forests and the products in that industry, as well as an industry that supplies about 160,000 jobs in 40 communities.

Another area of concern is that the minister has cut the budget for conservation officers by as much as 50%. The ability to react to serious after-hours complaints from the public about natural resources abuses has been thwarted almost entirely. Officers will not be paid to respond to these complaints and in some areas they are being denied even time off as compensation in lieu of payment. The minister has failed to recognize that commercial poaching is a serious threat to wildlife. He is merely paying lipservice to this very real threat and is doing nothing to protect our natural resources.

Ontario at one time used to be the leader in Canada in the field of special investigations to combat commercial poaching, but this year the special investigations unit was disbanded and its members reassigned, all in the name of

this minister's misguided reorganization. This minister fails to realize that Ontario's wildlife is a priority that deserves better protection and that the taxpayers in this province deserve a level of service that is not just a shell of what it was in previous years.

It wasn't long ago that I made a statement in this Legislature with regard to Presqu'île park. The conservation officers had been in touch with me complaining about intimidation and harassment with regard to charges that were laid but not followed through and were withdrawn. I asked the minister to reply to me in writing and I would hope that he would do that because these people want to know the result of that.

2230

The Minister of Natural Resources and his government continue to find new routes into the wallets of Ontario's taxpayers. Well, he didn't get into mine today, but I went over to the ministry to buy my new Outdoors Card and found out that I couldn't pay for it in cash, that I had to send a cheque or use a VISA card.

So I put it in the mail and sent it and I find out that it's not even the Ministry of Natural Resources that's looking after it; it's farmed out to some group to look after it. Not only that, we've no idea what the cost is, we've no idea whether it was tendered, we've no idea who is looking after this new card that we're talking about. Anyhow, I had to write a cheque and it will be a few days' more time and then I'll receive my new Outdoors Card, I hope.

So these extra tax grabs are having an effect on all our hunters, anglers and people who are concerned with regard to the cottages and residences that they own within parks or that they lease.

In the first case, the Minister of Natural Resources has already imposed his own form of market value assessment—we were talking about that earlier here tonight—when he announced the rent increases for recreational lots and crown land, including recreation camps for fishing and hunting, summer resort leases and cottage leases in provincial parks. They're all getting an increase. It could be \$100 or 10% or 15%, I believe; I'm not sure what it is. He hopes to have the market value achieved within five years, so Algonquin and Rondeau provincial parks' cottage leases will virtually double from the current average of \$1,200 to \$2,450 by the end of the five-year period.

This annual 15% tax grab is completely unacceptable and unwarranted, especially at a time when the annual rate of inflation is approximately 3%. These increases will have an injurious impact on leaseholders, our senior citizens and many others who are struggling to survive on fixed incomes. So the minister should reconsider his 15% tax grab and implement a more moderate policy that truly reflects and responds to the troubled economic times facing the people of Ontario.

In the second case, the minister announced a new Outdoors Card that he claimed would make life easier for anglers. He conveniently forgot to tell anyone that it will also mean a 50% hike in the cost of going fishing next year. So the cost of the minister's new magnetic-stripe Outdoors Card will be charged on top of the \$12 fee for a fishing licence. Hunters must also pay the additional card

fee on top of hunting licences, which range from \$20 to \$30; that's annually and that's depending on the type of weapon used and the game to be hunted.

The new card system, which will affect approximately 1.5 million anglers and hunters, is more tax grab for the province, more revenue for the province. The whole upsetting part of it all is that when it was first initiated, the licensing and fees were to go back in for conservation officers and restocking our lakes and, from what we gather, the amount of money goes into general revenue so therefore it is not totally going back in for the use that we thought it was supposed to be there for.

Many people are concerned about the lack of direction the minister is exhibiting with respect to our natural resources and speculate that he simply cannot balance his responsibilities in terms of both resources and native affairs. That has been a great contention right from the very beginning with regard to our OMAF people. Many people have raised that very issue, that they feel the two portfolios should not be together. They feel there's a conflict of interest. They feel that they're at odds with one another when the one minister, the Minister of Natural Resources, has to make the decision with regard to protecting our conservation lands in both portfolios.

On October 19, the minister announced that the 1992-93 interim hunting agreement had been signed between Ontario and the Algonquins of Golden Lake. Many third parties, such as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, are appalled at the short notice given by the minister to have their comments on the draft agreement. Everybody is wondering why a full public consultation process was not conducted, although the minister indicates that it was.

Interested third parties were denied the opportunity to present their views before the first interim agreement was negotiated, and those same interested parties were once again denied the opportunity to provide constructive comments when the agreement was renewed. So this minister and this government continue to make a mockery of the concept of public participation and consultation.

The government, with regard to the agreement with the Algonquins of Golden Lake first nation, signed a second interim hunting agreement from October 1991 to August 1992. Land-claim negotiations between Ontario and the Algonquins of Golden Lake first nation began on June 15, 1991. As part of the negotiation process, the parties agreed to put in effect interim arrangements regarding aboriginal food harvesting.

Ontario found that the first interim hunting agreement was effective in conserving wildlife, preserving the values of Algonquin Park, protecting public safety and respecting private property rights. There was no conflict with the public's ability to enjoy hunting, camping, canoeing, fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the park.

This is a news release in part from the Ministry of Natural Resources which indicated that this is what took place.

The second interim hunting agreement contained several changes that reflect public input. These changes provide the public with some measure of insurance regarding

public safety, wildlife conservation and protection of park values.

Other changes are designed to make the agreement more efficient to administer, and there are some changes in the 1992-93 agreement. The agreement covers hunting by the Algonquins of Golden Lake throughout the land-claim area. Hunting in Algonquin Park by members of the first nation under the terms of the agreement is restricted to the area north and east of Shirley Lake Road. The harvest was set at 100 moose and 175 deer throughout the land-claim area, which is a small percentage of the total number hunted annually in the area and well within the level to sustain the limits.

The news release from the ministry for the 1992-93 agreement changed from last year's agreement. The hunting season for mature female moose will be shorter than the season for other moose and will end on December 6, 1992.

Another change that was made with regard to hunting inside the section of the park designed for this began on October 13, which I believe was later than in the previous year. So there have been some changes made with regard to the Algonquins hunting in a designated area of the park.

Ontario will fund the first nation's cost for hiring and supporting an official who will ensure that the agreement is enforced.

The 1992-93 agreement is in place and we hope there will not be any problems. When an agreement comes to be looked at for 1993-94, I hope the minister would involve more of the people who have been sending him letters and concerns about not being contacted. I hope he would see fit to contact those people for another time.

I'd like to move on to some of the other concurrences in supply that I wanted to speak about. I have the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Last Thursday, Bill 105, An Act to provide Stable Funding for Farm Organizations that provide Education and Analysis of Farming Issues on behalf of Farmers, was given first reading in the Legislature. I haven't seen a copy of that bill yet, but I know there has been some concern raised from farm groups with regard to that bill. The indications are that it could be used for many different reasons. They feel that some of the people who will benefit certainly will be bureaucrats within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

I have a long-outstanding question that I've never had answered yet. That very issue is with regard to the \$150 fee that is being paid. What is the money going to be used for? That is a question I've asked. I have not gotten an answer from anyone yet on that.

2240

There are many people who are opposed to this very bill. There's a committee out there that is very much opposed to it. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, the farmers' union, of course—those organizations are very supportive of this bill.

I know the minister has some concerns. He would like to get it through in this session. But I have had phone calls, and there are many people who want to have hearings.

They want to have public hearings if it's going through. Many people want to have a vote. So there's a lot to be discussed yet with regard to that very issue.

But we all must not forget that the farming community is hurting. One of the first ones to have been hurt, the farming community is the one that supplies us with what we have on our table every day. I don't think we should forget those hardworking people out there. I know my son and his wife, who run my dairy farm, or our dairy farm, work seven days a week. It's just got to be done when you have a dairy farm. So I think that farming has a priority in this province, and we all should make sure that it is a priority.

One of the recommendations with regard to the issue is the expansion of staff that some of the people want to anticipate. The Christian Farmers want a willingness to coordinate and build coalitions in the farm community. These people really think that this is going to help, and I hope they're right. They're really putting an effort in to get this type of legislation through, because they feel they will have more say. The farming community needs more say. The farming community needs more input into policies of government that affect the lives of the people in this province.

I hope the minister will listen to the concerns that are being raised out there. These are not people raising these concerns who are really opposed to it, but they want to know what they're spending their money on. Farmers are not people who throw their money away, and if they're spending it, they would like to make sure that it's being spent in a proper way.

Last April, the Minister of Health announced her commitment to allocating \$29.55 million for the redevelopment of the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. The project was supposed to result in the redevelopment of the hospital on the existing site, including diagnostic and treatment facilities. I would hope, Madam Minister, that those funds are still available, and that once the planning is done, they will be proceeding.

I would hope that the Barrie hospital would be proceeding in the same form as what already has been indicated. She's not shaking her head yet, but I would hope that it's not in her plans to put those facilities on hold. She's well aware, as anybody is, of the area. It's a growth area. There needs to be a major regional hospital in that area, and the allocation that has been made to the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital to do the addition is so important that the community has raised close to \$7 million of its own just for this addition to be put on. So I hope the minister will make sure that those projects proceed, which I'm sure she will. The people of the community are wondering, and I would hope that has not changed.

One of the other major concerns that I have is with regard to our nursing homes and our homes for the aged. I have over the years on many occasions spoken here with regard to the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia, which is an ideal location where the mentally handicapped are housed. It's a large facility, and part of it now is being used by the OPP relocation team that's there. It's an ideal spot for people who are in the chronic care units in the hospitals

who are able and available to be out in a more homey setting.

There are those who do have to be in facilities. We know that. We know our aim is to keep them in their own homes as long as we can. I agree with that. But there is a cutoff point where if you have round-the-clock nursing in one home, it couldn't be more costly if you had them in a facility where you've got three or four or half a dozen being looked after.

The county of Simcoe has taken over the Hillcrest home in the city of Orillia. It was run by the United Church of Canada, which was finding difficulty in maintaining that home. Some years ago, the county took over the Trillium home in Orillia, and they're both very close by. I have great faith in the county operations. They have a home in Beeton; they also have one in Collingwood and one in Penetanguishene. Those homes have a waiting list, as most do.

But I think the emphasis also should be on establishing more nursing home beds or homes for the aged. I think you can certainly keep a person in a nursing home for \$300 a day less than what we're keeping them for in our chronic care units in the hospitals, and I really have a problem with that. So I would hope the Ministry of Health, while it is restructuring within the ministry, can have another look at that.

It wasn't long ago that the spokesperson for our party on the Ministry of Health talked about long-term care announcements and the user fees in order to reform Ontario's health care system. In introducing the Long Term Care Statute Law Amendment Act, the government confirmed its plan to charge seniors \$300 a month more for nursing home care. The government is expected to raise \$150 million through this user fee increase.

"While the government rants against user fees, the Health minister continues to apply these fees in a covert fashion," said the member for Simcoe East. "I don't know whether he's right or not, but I have to think that there are a lot of things in here, that we're talking about the financial commitment to long-term care. There is a financial commitment to long-term care, and I'm sure the minister is looking at this very issue, because when we're talking about the frail and the elderly, there's no one here who would not want to see them looked after properly, and I'm sure the minister feels the same way.

Last month, the member for Nipissing unveiled *New Directions, Vol. II: A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario*. The document focuses on three distinct principles: opportunity, excellence and accountability. That forms the core of my party's education skills training blueprint. This government must realize that if we are to provide career choices and varied opportunities for the next generation, we must first provide excellence in our educational system, and all students should graduate from secondary school with advanced language and mathematical skills and the ability to learn the marketplace skills of their choice.

I urge the Minister of Education and this government to take a non-partisan approach to excellence in education by giving serious consideration to *New Directions: A*

Blueprint for Learning in Ontario. It really is a book that allows the people in this province, if they're that interested in education, to make their views known. It's a book, it's a challenge, and the more we can talk about it and the more input we can get from people, probably the better the educational system that can be developed by everyone.

I think that's really what this is all about. I know there are other members here who are interested in and have read that book and who know that it's a challenge out there that we have to put before the people to make sure this government will implement some of these three Rs that we've been looking for for some time.

The government, in our estimation and my opinion, should give serious consideration to phasing out some of the rent controls that have been in place. I want to tell you, there are those who are struggling to survive on fixed incomes, who are renting accommodations and are finding it difficult to put a roof over their heads under our current rent control system. Those with higher incomes, over \$40,000, don't need rent controls as much as those on fixed incomes. I've seen it in my community and I've spoken on it time and time again that help from governments should be going to the individuals who are in need. Those are the ones we should be helping, not putting it on to the building in the form of rent controls, but giving it to the person who wants to rent his or her own place. I think that would be a step in the right direction.

2250

So there are subsidized homes. The other interesting thing is that we have the co-op housing. We have seven one-bedroom apartments, we will have 12 two-bedroom apartments, and we will have 20 three-bedroom apartments. The one-bedroom apartments are usually subsidized by the government to help those people maintain a standard of living they would enjoy. The three-bedroom apartment rents for about \$800 a month. You can rent a private apartment from somebody else down the street, without going into subsidized housing, for less than \$800 a month. So we have three-bedroom apartments all over this province that are sitting there not being rented.

Why don't we change our policy? Why don't we build far more one-bedroom apartments in those buildings instead of so many twos and threes? The one-bedrooms are gone as soon as they are built, and other people, who don't qualify for a two-bedroom apartment, are sitting on a waiting list.

A road system is a vital social and economic link for the people of Ontario. I've watched and I've agreed with many of the policies and initiatives that have been taken with regard to improving our road system. For years I have said that we've built all these miles of road and we have administration and government that cannot maintain what's been built. So to see the improvements that have been done has been great. But when we spent, I don't know, \$15 million to put bilingual signs across this province, it didn't seem to make much sense to me, in the form of dollars.

It's interesting to note that I got the greatest complaints from the people in Penetanguishene about that very issue. Asking people what they thought were some of

the important issues of the day, that was the very issue they raised. That's francophones. I couldn't believe it, but it's true. They're as interested in saving a dollar as anybody is, and that was one of the issues they were looking at. So we say that money was misdirected and should have been put into more paving and upgrading of our infrastructure of roads.

One thing I would like to see the Ministry of Transportation bringing forward is a graduated licence program. There are a lot of people in this province who get licences, about whom I often wonder, did they go through the safe driving course? Did they go through the same process as many other people have done in order to get that licence? I'm not so sure, but I think a graduated licence program, with restrictions on young people or anybody who's getting a licence—I just happen to believe that it needs to be upgraded.

The other issue I wanted to raise with regard to transportation is the issue that the Treasurer raised on many, many occasions when he was on this side of the Legislature. That was the very issue of gasoline tax. I remember distinctly in this Legislature how he used to say that it should be the same price across the province, that the northerners were always getting ripped off. Since the Treasurer has been sitting on the governments' side, I haven't seen that being put into action yet. So are the people of the north still being ripped off by the increase on what they're paying for their gasoline tax?

I was also pleased that companies like Hunter Enterprises in Orillia and many other small industries were able to avail themselves of financial assistance from the government. This enables them to stay and operate here in Canada and to keep people working in this province. Perhaps it's time for the government to take a serious look at assisting companies like TRW in Penetanguishene, which recently announced that some of its staff was moving to Mexico. At one time there were 800 employees there; there are now about 260 employees. The employees of that plant are in a conflict now with the company, which wants to cut back.

I would predict that in two years' time, Mexico will not be the climate to locate in that everybody thinks it is today. They seem to think that the low wage scale is the greatest thing, the greatest attraction there. But there's one thing you don't want to forget, and that is quality. I hope that in two years' time a lot of people will change their minds about that.

I had a constituent from Lafontaine who was building airplanes and he was wanting to find out where he could get some help with regard to furthering his aircraft business. He's been getting the runaround from the municipality and from government and he sent me a fax. He was going to the States for one week and he said, "If you can do anything, phone me, and if you can't, don't phone me back."

I availed myself of the opportunity to phone the individual back, and I do hope that Mr Martin, the facilitator who is appointed here, will be of some assistance to that individual. That's Dale Martin, the facilitator of the Ministry of Natural Resources, by the way, and I hope that he

will be able to facilitate some of the problems that this individual has had. He doesn't want to leave the country. He wants to stay in Lafontaine and I want to help him do that. So I did have a discussion with him and I hope that what we had talked about and the direction that he's going in now will indicate to him that we are supportive of his staying here.

The climate with regard to people wanting to invest here, though, has always been a concern and a concern for the last two years. Look at the billboards: "Bob Rae, Buffalo Booster Man of the Year." We look at the billboards today and it shows a picture of him with a golf club, saying that he's driving business out of the province.

I've got to say that I guess Bill 40 was probably, in hindsight, one of the major pieces of legislation that this province has brought in which has had a very detrimental effect with regard to people wanting to locate in Ontario. The government will not agree to that, but you could ask any business, any company and it certainly will relay those very feelings to you.

I want to move on to the Ministry of Community and Social Services and talk about some of the cutbacks that have been going on here and the demonstration that was here a week ago, some 4,000 people. I never thought we'd ever hear of the day that the sheltered workshops like ARC Industries in Orillia, Midland, Collingwood—all over the province—are being cut back in their funding.

I just can't believe what I've seen, because they forget who set up all these great facilities in the first place. They have been the greatest thing for the developmentally handicapped people we have and I don't know where they're going to go if they don't have these facilities to go to. So when we look at the demonstration that was out here, I would never have dreamt that I would ever see that type of demonstration here at Queen's Park.

It's interesting how the NDP government has indicated that it wants to help those who are less fortunate—and they're helping them. They're helping them out; they're helping them out of the facilities. So I just can't believe what I see. There were 145 residents from Collingwood and Wasaga Beach. There was a busload from Orillia who were here the other day. When you see a \$5-million cut in the budget for sheltered workshops—the government also plans to cut the triministry funding, it's my understanding, in April 1993, leaving children and adults with developmental disabilities guessing as to what move will be next.

I've had calls and letters in my office with regard to people who are involved in those facilities; not only that, but with the parents of those children who are going to ARC Industries, and they are now wondering what they're going to do. I never, ever thought that we would see the day when we would see 4,000 people from across this province gather at Queen's Park to protest these cuts. It was a deplorable situation to see, in my way of thinking, for those people who are so much less fortunate than we are.

The other area I want to touch on is the area of the environment. I am deeply troubled by the Minister of the Environment's ongoing search for new landfill sites for Metropolitan Toronto garbage. It is my personal belief that

the minister should be initiating new alternatives for the disposal of garbage. I believe landfill sites have gone the way of the dinosaur and it is incumbent upon all levels of government, industry and the public to devise new and environmentally sound methods for handling municipal waste management in the province of Ontario.

I have not seen an initiative yet to cut down on the packaging. This has been a major concern for years, and every time you go into a store you see more packaging. I don't know how you're going to do it, but there's got to be initiative somewhere that these companies are penalized somehow to cut back.

2300

When I look at the reuse and recycling methods that we've got—I mean, we had experiments with putting tires in asphalt and putting them on the roads. We have many experiments that could take place with regard to using up all those tires. Where's the \$5 tire tax? Nobody has seen that.

So we look at the Ministry of the Environment with regard to packaging. We have not got a direct answer from the Minister of Natural Resources yet—he says it's coming by the end of December—with regard to the two landfill sites proposed near the Rouge, and we want him to extend that park so that it will not be in part of the garbage system.

We look at some other aspects of garbage. We can look at some other jurisdictions in Europe, and there are pictures in the Ministry of the Environment of this—for any member who wants to see it, it's there to be seen—of how they dispose of their garbage on 38 acres for a complete waste management facility. Why are we not looking at that? Why is it not being expounded here as a good way, perhaps, of getting rid of some of the garbage?

So when you talk about landfill sites, I have seen so many in my day that there's got to be more recycling. I'd like to see some pilot projects, and I've spoken for one for Penetang-Midland, that whole area, all those municipalities, where we'd get a pilot project for total recycling and reusing.

I don't know how it's going to happen, but for goodness' sake, we can put a man on the moon and we can't get rid of our garbage. There's got to be somebody with scientific knowledge who will be able to recycle and reuse 80% to 90% of what we're doing. It's got to come some day. I think a greater effort put into that would be what I would like to see.

I'm pleased that the Solicitor General is going ahead with plans to move his OPP general headquarters to Orillia. There's been a lot of discussion with regard to that, and I think that issue came several years ago. I think that use of that facility is great. It's in the middle of the province; it's got all access to the DEW line for their communication system, and I think that the new general headquarters will be a masterpiece, something for this province to be proud of.

I'm proud of our police force. I'm proud of the way they work and what they do, and I think most people would commend them on any of the efforts that they have. There's got to be a better way to work with them, to help

them, because they work shift work. Most police do that. A lot of people don't like working shift work, but they do.

I think there's got to be a better way of communicating with them than what has been going on. I hated to see the demonstration that took place out here. I don't think anybody would be very proud, but I've got to look at it from the policeman's aspect and point of view. I mean, when somebody in Metro indicates to me that a constable will pull his revolver twice in the daytime, every day, average, and at night it can be a lot more, to arm them with a report that they have to make every time they draw their weapon, there's got to be a sawoff there somehow whereby they are not being intimidated to say that they can't use their firearm.

Now a lot of people say, "Well, we're not telling them that," but you certainly give them the indication that you're not wanting them to use the firearm because of the controls that you're putting on them.

We have had many questions in this House with regard to the integrity and the cutbacks in the budgets. There have been so many cutbacks, it's hard to understand them all. We had a 50% cutback in the conservation officers, some of the very important people who are looking after the wildlife in this province.

The rate of crime is increasing drastically and here we are, government fighting with the police officers of this province, and it's totally unacceptable. When you say, "I won't meet with you"—the door should be open at any time in the Premier's office to meet with the commissioner of the OPP. I would think if that had been done, we wouldn't be in the state that we're in today.

You cannot indicate to people that you're willing to listen to one group and not another. That's the issue. Everybody should be heard and should be heard fairly, and that has not been the case.

The Ministry of Tourism is one of the prime sources of jobs in Ontario, and yet this government fails to give this industry the support and assistance it deserves. Gas prices continue to rise and fall—mostly rise—which deters out-of-province visitors to Ontario. The government continues to overtax alcoholic beverages, which hinders the hospitality industry. With this government's misguided policies, there is no doubt in my mind that the tourism industry's new motto will be "Ontario—Yours to Recover."

Mr Speaker, if you want to travel to Ontario from the States, you'll fill your car up with gas, you'll go and buy your alcohol, you'll go and buy your cigarettes, and that will be the first and the last time that you'll buy them in Ontario. When you look at the difference, it's tremendous.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): It's 11 o'clock, Allan.

Mr McLean: For those people who want to watch the 11 o'clock news, it's all right, you can carry on, but I just wanted to briefly mention the importance of tourism in this province, because in Orillia, Simcoe East, with the Ste-Marie-Among-the-Hurons military establishment in Penetanguishene, we know the value of tourism. The Thirty Thousand Islands cruises that go out of Midland, the Georgian Queen that goes out of Penetanguishene, the

boat that cruises in Lake Couchiching, all are tourism oriented, and they all attract tourism.

I think it's great that this is happening. I commend those people who are promoting it. The Huronia Tourist Association, which for many years has been supported by business and people who are involved in the tourism industry, has supported it dramatically, and I commend them for that. Tourism is still one of the key industries.

The funding that was put aside by the ministry, some \$14 million, for recreation and tourism with regard to our snowmobiling, with regard to our trails, I think, is a very important initiative that Mr North announced at the time. I think it's important that we not forget that, because our snowmobile industry is one of the major tourist attractions. All the snowmobilers that I know of have sold out of machines this year, and they have a waiting list. So when we look at what's happening in tourism, I think it's important that we don't forget that.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr McLean: Now I want to read this: "Casino Gambling Sought for Detroit.

"Two Detroit developers and a tribe of American Indians from northern Michigan are moving ahead with a plan to bring casino gambling downtown. The developers have asked for federal approval to donate a parcel of land to the Sault Ste Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians, it was reported yesterday. Detroit voters rejected casino gambling in 1976, 1981 and 1988 in the referendums, but they would have no voice this time, because the property would be in trust of an Indian tribe, which is a sovereign nation."

What this is telling me is that there's going to be casino gambling in Detroit.

Mr White: They're watching Total News from Barrie now. It's too late.

Mr McLean: The province of Ontario initiating a casino in Windsor will be too late. They'll all be gambling in Detroit, and that's where Ontario had indicated that it wanted to get its funding from, through the gambling people from Detroit who were going to come to Windsor to gamble.

It's all pain and no gain: the 1993 transfer payments and fiscal lookout. Does anybody realize what's happening with regard to the transfer payments? They said one, two and two; Now it's one, two, and the third year it's the two, less two. So in mind of that, it's going to be like 4% less in two years rather than in one. So when you look at really what's going on with regard to the transfer payments in this province, they'll be rolled back in 1994, and the taxpayers will be fleeced in the spring.

The statement is further proof that the Treasurer is making it up as he goes along. "'Laughren's budget plan has regressed from deficit du jour to panic du jour, as crisis management has become the order of the day,' said Norm Sterling."

Interjections.

Mr McLean: The Treasurer has admitted to us that he's facing a \$4.2-billion revenue shortfall in 1993-94. Can you imagine? He predicted a \$9.7-billion deficit. Now he's adding another \$4.2 billion to it. I fail to understand

the budgetary policies of this government. It's unbelievable. The outlook is not good.

I wanted to talk briefly, with regard to Bill 164, about the fact sheet with regard to auto insurance. To me, it's really overdue to have a further discussion on this because I think that the regulatory powers section, the accident benefits schedule and income replacement are certainly not what I would like to see.

2310

I think I'll wrap up there because there are others who probably would like to say a few words. I have probably gone almost half an hour, a little better, I think. I really wanted to get into the NDP Agenda for People, but I'll have to leave that. That'll be a speech in itself, another time. Because of the commitments and promises that have been made, I would like to be able to elaborate on this because I think it's important that we get these facts on the record.

Mr Bisson: It's with pleasure that I have an opportunity to get up finally, some couple of hours after we started this debate, in order to talk about concurrence in supply. This is one of the rare times in the House when members have somewhat of a latitude in order to speak about a number of issues and concerns of people of Ontario in regard to the ministries that are listed under the concurrence in supply.

I'd like to say just a couple of things before getting started. The first thing is that in all fairness and in all honesty, as much as possible, all of us in this House at one time or another have been in opposition except for new members like myself. Everybody has had an opportunity within all three political parties to be in opposition. One of the things, either fortunately or unfortunately because of the political system we have, is that one of the jobs, obviously, of the opposition parties is to try to get on this side of the House.

Unfortunately, the only mechanism we have in this system is to attack the government, and that's understandable. It's not a question of argument. But I just want to point out a couple of things. A lot has been said in this House over the past couple of weeks, just listening to some of the debates about some of the difficulties that we're having here in Ontario, in regard to the recession and what that means to the hardships endured by the people of Ontario, who unfortunately at this time are not working and are in dire straits, to put it mildly, and as well as what it means to Ontario when it comes to being able to hold the line on the budget, on the spending and being able to put the province in a financial position that in the long run has some objectiveness that's able to be met.

The point is that I've listened to the opposition, and I really would have liked to give them credit where credit is due, but unfortunately there are a lot of mixed messages that are coming forward, when I hear the members opposite making comments either during question period or during debate such as we just had right now.

I just heard the previous member, when speaking about the Ministry of Community and Social Services, when speaking about the Ministry of Education and a few other

ministries, talk about how much of a shame it was that the government wasn't spending as much money as it should on a number of initiatives, such as the sheltered workshop program, such as a number of other programs that he mentioned.

The reality is that in a time of fiscal constraint, such as we find ourselves in, as to the amount of revenue that is being collected by a government, because there are less people working, less people paying taxes, less people spending because there's less money to go around, you collect less retail sales tax and you have depleting revenues at the same time you have a real strain on the government purse in regard to the programs that governments deliver, because in a time of a recession, clearly, people access government services much more than they would otherwise.

People access those services, such as the ones that were mentioned by the two previous speakers, and other things that other members have spoken about during question period and on other occasions. What that means to say is that the government finds itself in a position where it has an imbalance.

I think the fundamental question we all have to ask ourselves, not only members in this House but I think all the population of Ontario is, up to just what point can the province afford to pay for some of the services that we have? Now some, looking at this debate, would say, "My God, that's a New Democrat saying that." But it's no big secret that New Democrats have always recognized that you have to be fiscally responsible when it comes to managing the purse, because in the end it's us, you and me, Mr Speaker, and other people out there who pay the taxes that pay for these services.

The decision governments have to make is clearly, what has priority? Unfortunately, when you make those decisions, through public consultation, through work you do within your ministries, and finally, work you do in this assembly and within your caucuses, there are some people who end up on the positive side and some people who end up on the negative side.

No politician in this Legislature, I don't care if it be a Liberal, a Conservative or a New Democrat, likes to make decisions that take things away from people in Ontario that they've been used to having. The unfortunate part is that sometimes we do need to make those difficult decisions. I don't like making them and neither does anybody else on this side of the House. As far as we're concerned, we wish there were a barrel of money there. We wish, as the opposition would put it, we were able to spend money on a whole bunch of different programs to give the services to the people of this province, but clearly you can't do that. What you have to do is prioritize where you spend your money. You have to prioritize who comes before whom, who's who in the lineup.

That is a very difficult balancing act. I think if you take a look at the record of the government over the past two years, we've managed to hold the line on spending in such a way that people have not noticed a very big difference in the delivery of service. Where people have noticed a difference is in the people administering the programs within

Ontario, people who have had to make the very tough budget decisions, at hospitals, at school boards, at municipalities, at various agencies around the province of Ontario, and yes, within government ministries.

Those are the people who have noticed how difficult it has been because it's been a real challenge for those people to sit down and start to take a look at things like they've never had to take a look at them before. Traditionally, if you look at just one issue, at the question of health care, for years in this province, for at least 10 years if you look at the books, the costs of health care have increased by over 10% every year. That's in times when inflation was running at 2% and 5%; we still had inflationary costs within the health care system of well over 10%.

Why? Because what used to happen in health care was that a hospital or a particular service would say: "We need a service. We need a particular piece of equipment. We have to deliver whatever to our patients." They would come to the government after running a deficit and they would say to the government, "Underwrite my deficit." Governments, because they didn't want to argue, because it wasn't politically wise to argue over the health care system, would just fund that deficit. Unfortunately, what ended up happening is that you had a spiralling cost just within that one particular budget, within health care.

Clearly, over a third of the amount of money that we spend in the province of Ontario goes to health care, just in that one ministry. Close to \$20 billion that we spend out of a \$50-billion budget goes to health care. What this government did and was able to do in two years—in less than two years—was that we managed to cut the whole cost of inflation within the health care system to within 2% to 3%. That is a major significant step in the right direction.

It has been challenging to hospitals. I know. I've had to work with them the same way as every other member in this Legislature, with our community hospitals, the Timmins District Hospital in Timmins, Sensenbrenner, other hospitals in my riding. We had to sit down together. We had to make some tough decisions. I'll speak particularly to the Timmins District Hospital. They had to go out and try to find a way to offset some of the deficits they had within their budget.

They worked hard. They worked with the boards, with the administration, and yes, the workers. For the first time in the history of the province of Ontario the hospital boards had to go to the workers within the hospital and say, "Before we put forward our deficit recovery plan, we need to consult with you, the people who deliver the services on a day-to-day basis within the hospitals." That had never been done before.

It was difficult. Workers were not used to being consulted. They saw it with a little bit of misgiving, but they participated. Administration and boards were not used to it either, but they participated. With a lot of give and take, and yes, with a lot of difficulty, they managed to find ways to reduce their overall costs. We still have problems in that particular hospital. We still have a way to go, but clearly we've reduced the cost of health care within that one institution. If you look around other hospitals around Ontario, it's been much the same story.

Now, in some areas, hospital boards have decided to take a different approach. They decided that rather than working with workers, because there wasn't anybody there to monitor what was going on and they didn't have the luxury of having a government member at times, to go out and pick on the workers like they normally do to balance their deficit. What they did is they laid off workers like they always had before.

But there are partnerships being created in this province that have never been created in the history of this province and I would almost say in the history of this country, the way they are in the province of Ontario.

The difficulty we have as a government, and this is not being negative towards anybody, is that we're doing these kinds of things in the open. We're going in the open and we're showing the numbers to the people of Ontario. We're sitting down with boards and commissions and administrators of hospitals and various groups out there and saying: "Here are the hard facts. Here are some of the decisions we have to make and let's have some public discussion about them."

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The difficulty, when you make those decisions out in public, is that you're much more open to criticism because there will always be people out there, not only from the opposition but people out in the general public, who don't want you to make the decisions that have to be made because they want to protect their particular interest, be it the worker, be it the management person, be it whoever, the person who gets the service.

They'll come out and they have avenue within the media, and that's the job of the media, to report the negativity in the media the way they do, and I don't believe it's a question of the media picking on the government. I just believe it's because times have changed and people are now being asked to take part in decisions that they've never had to take part in before.

Because of that, because of the process being so much open to the public, what ends up happening is that we're more open to criticism as a government because we're exposing more of ourselves as a government to the people of Ontario. Some people say to me that at times that's a weakness. I hear that inside the Legislature. I see it as a strength. I see it as a strength that this government has the courage to stand up before the people of this province and say: "Let's do this together. Here are the numbers, here are the decisions that we have to make. Let's work together, all of the people of Ontario, and make the best decision possible so at the end we can afford to pay for these services." People are rising to the challenge.

The province of Ontario will never return back to the system we had under previous governments. We won't allow it to happen. If you look under boards and commissions, there is a process that has been widely opened, where people have an opportunity to see what positions are open on those boards, so that if they make the decision that they want to serve, they can serve on those particular boards.

Before, the way it used to work is that as a government member you would appoint all the people on your boards

within your local riding, and on provincial boards if you had enough clout within government. Other people who were interested, because they didn't have your political stripe, didn't have a chance of getting in. Oh, yes, past Liberal and Conservative governments appointed their token New Democrats and token whoever, but by and large those boards were filled with people from their party ranks. That's how the Big Blue Machine was built over the years and that's how the Liberals tried to build their Big Red Machine. We said: "No, we cannot afford to do that in Ontario. We need to make it an open process."

The joke, to a certain extent, with the riding association I come from, the riding of Cochrane South, is that they say, "God, Gilles, you can't get people appointed to your own God-darned committees and your own appointments to your own boards. You're a government member. Why can't you do it? They were able to do it in the past," and I say, "Because it's a public process."

It is not the job of the member for Cochrane South to go out and start to appoint political hacks to boards in order to build myself a party machine. My responsibility is to make sure that if people put their names forward and they have the capability and the competence for serving on those boards, those names go forward. Many people in my riding have been appointed who are not of my political stripe, but I recognize that they have the ability, the same way that there have been some New Democrats who have been appointed.

The point is that it's a much more open process now with the system of government in Ontario, and if people criticize it's because of that. It's because there are more of us exposed to the people of the province of Ontario because this is an open government, and with open government you expose more of yourself and people have more targets to shoot at. I don't see that as a negativity; I see that as something positive.

I had an opportunity last week, on Friday I believe it was—it might have been Thursday; actually, it was Thursday—where some 80 or 85 people in the riding of Cochrane South came to my constituency office. I wished to sit down to have tea and crumpets, but no, they were protesting. Why were they protesting? They were protesting about proposed, or I would say not even proposed, I would say somewhat exaggerated cuts that were going to happen in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They were concerned. They were going to go and protest in front of the the Community and Social Services office in Timmins.

I had my staff contact the organizers and said: "Don't go and protest at Community and Social Services. Come and protest at my office. I'm the provincial member and if you have something you want to discuss, we'll get into a discussion about that." So they came over, the 85 of them, and found out that it wasn't easy trying to move wheelchairs up our streets because we don't have barrier-free access within our communities; that is as a side issue, and something we should be trying to do more about.

We invited them into the office and I said, "Tell me what your issues are, tell me what your problems are, so

that I can hear, so that I can better represent the views of what you have to say."

The point is that what they were explaining as being their fears about what these proposed cuts were going to be were nowhere near what the government was contemplating and doing. What ends up happening a lot of the time on these issues is that a minister like the capable minister that we have, Mrs Marion Boyd, turns around and talks openly about how we are going to pay for the service. We have to establish a target so that over a period of years we can cut the expenditures of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We need to make some decisions.

If we have programs that were set up at one point and we're changing those programs over to another mode, such as what happened with the depopulating of institutions that were started by the previous Conservative government, and we're still paying for that at the same time we're paying for the system in the community, we have to start making some choices about how to make that happen so that we're not paying for two systems, because we can't afford to do that.

When we're talking about sheltered workshops, such as what it is with the ARC Industries in my community, they lost somewhere around \$8,000 or \$10,000 in their particular budget because more money has to be put into the budget-assisted workplace programs. Those are some of the decisions that you have to make, and we had that discussion at the constituency office.

I have confidence in the people of Ontario, because the people of Ontario are very smart and they understand the tough decisions that have to be made. All they want is a government that makes the decisions in the open, in as fair a manner as possible and that we do that in the open, and, yes, we'll be open to some criticism, there's no question.

At the end of that meeting people turned around and said: "We recognize that you have difficult decisions to make. All that we ask you is that you do that in a way that we, as agencies, can start gearing ourselves towards the change. We accept that change has to be made, and we want to work towards it, but we want to have the transitional time to get there." What the Treasurer announced on the transfer payments last week is exactly that.

The kinds of things that we have to start talking about, quite out in the open, are how we administer our particular programs within agencies in our communities. For example, in my riding I have three to four different agencies that all deliver services to the child. Out of those four agencies, all four of them have their own rental space, they all have their own administration people, they have all their own custodians, they have their own service deliverers, they have all the materials, photocopiers, computers etc.

What's started to happen in my riding, as it has happened in others already, is that those people are coming together and saying, "What would happen if we were to co-locate, if we were to take all of our agencies and go underneath one roof?" Never mind just the savings to the taxpayers of Ontario, but imagine the difference that would make to the people trying to access the service.

The problem we have now is that when people first come into the system looking for the help, the way it's set

up now they see a fragmented service; very good individual agencies out there doing the job they have to do, but it seems somewhat fragmented. One of the things that they talk about is that if we can come together, we can present much clearer access as to what services are available.

But imagine, you get those four agencies together, you save on the rent, maybe you share the administration costs such as payroll, maybe you share in the purchasing of material and get a bit of a better price because you buy in bulk, maybe you save a little bit on the custodial work that has to be done in your building, maybe you can share with people doing reception. Putting all of those things together, it comes up that you can save some money.

Let's just do a little bit of quick math. If we were to do that in each community across Ontario, and there are some 800 communities, and let's be very conservative, say we only can save \$100,000 in agencies by doing that: \$100,000 times 800 communities. That is a lot of money, and that is just by finding ways of being able to work together and cooperate better and administer our services better.

What's happened over the years and what people from the opposition parties need to recognize—and they should know that; they were in government—is that people came to the province of Ontario like they did in every other province in Canada and they said: "I want a service. There's a service out there that I need for my sick child or my sick grandmother" or whoever it might be, to access a particular service. The government of the day, because it had money, did the right thing. They said, "Yes, we recognize you need that service and we will set up a program to fit your needs."

Then government would go off with cabinet and make some decisions through the cabinet committee process and policy and priorities board and would say, "Well, we'll put that under the Ministry of Community and Social Services or, hang on, maybe we'll put it under Health," and it would end up underneath one of the ministries.

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Then a couple of years later somebody would come up with somewhat of a similar program that they wanted but targeted at another particular group that wasn't quite the same as the first one and you'd set up yet a second program and maybe this time instead of putting it in Health you'd put it in Community and Social Services.

So what you end up with is a lot of good services out there, but they're not very well administered. That's not to be negative towards the people that administer them, that's not their fault, they're administering what government has set up. I think that's the responsibility of governments: our own as New Democrats, and the Liberals before us and the Conservatives, to make sure those kinds of things don't happen.

Those are the kinds of things that we're talking about on this side of the House as New Democrats when we talk about restraint within government and finding ways of saving money. You go out and you save on the administration of those programs. That's how you're able to do it.

When members of the opposition get up and point out the negativity towards this side of the House, towards

government, and talk about on the one hand we've got a \$10-billion deficit and everybody's going to be paying for that in the future, and in the next breath they're telling us they want to spend more money and after that they're telling us we're spending too much, it's quite confusing to listen to that message.

I just want people to realize that they are tough decisions to be made and I think people are smart enough to realize that what happens in this Legislature, unfortunately, is very detached from mainstream Ontario and what the reality is in the province of Ontario when it comes to issues. Issues are debated here but in a much more political context. The discussions I have in my riding are much different than the discussions I hear around here, because what people in my riding are talking about are the same issues but without the partisanship. But that's the system that we have and we accept that.

I want to also just go through quickly on another issue, one of the things that was talked about by a couple of other members, and I just wanted an opportunity to raise that. It was a question about how this government approaches the business of being able to form partnerships within the private sector when we're talking about the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and also the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, because we're somewhat related in the aspects of what we do.

We had to face a lot of very difficult situations—and I'll speak about northern Ontario because that's where I come from—at the early term of this government. Some real pressing issues that we had to deal with in communities such as Kapuskasing and communities such as Elliot Lake, Atikokan, Virginiatown, whole communities that were really in jeopardy because of what was happening within the economy.

The problem we're faced with in regard to those particular industries is, yes, there is a global recession out there. I'd like to be able to say that we have all the levers here in government to fix the economy of Ontario. God, I'd love to be able to do that. But the reality is, no, we only have some of the levers. Unfortunately, the majority of the levers are sitting in Ottawa, and I would say a vast majority more of the levers are sitting outside of Canada. It's a question that if we do something and the feds do something, it's that much better. But here in the province of Ontario, I'll give you a couple of examples of the types of things we had to do, and the province of Ontario had to do it alone. There was nobody else there.

If you take a look at Kapuskasing, when that particular paper mill was going down, it was going down to some 300 employees because Kimberly-Clark of Texas decided they were going to go down to what was called the Amos plan and throw over 1,200 people out of work. The federal government was asked to intervene and to cooperate with us in order to find a solution. No, they didn't.

Who ended up fixing the problem was the province of Ontario under the leadership of people like Shelley Martel, Bud Wildman, Premier Rae—those are the people—Mr Wood, myself to a certain extent. We were the ones that had to go out there and sit down with Darren Smith from

Kimberly-Clark and sit down with Ontario Hydro and Mayor Jewell and the people from the union and Tembec.

We're the ones that sat down with them and built the partnerships in order to build the company. A year after this employee-ownership program that we set up where there's employees that own 55% of the company, with Tembec as the other one, they're making money. People said it would never happen. They're making money a year after. That's partnerships. Who did it? It wasn't Ottawa, it wasn't the United States, it wasn't anybody; it was the province of Ontario and it was the New Democratic government that did it.

When you look the tough decisions that we've had to make in Elliot Lake, who was there in order to try to offset the hardships in that community? Was it the federal government? No. Who was it? Common names: Shelley Martel, Bob Rae, New Democrats again. Algoma Steel and Sault Ste Marie: Look at the difficulties that we had there. Sure, the federal government tried in some way to react to that one because they were starting to get embarrassed.

We were going out trying to save plants in northern Ontario, and I speak about the north because that's where I come from and, God, we had to chase them out from behind the Parliament buildings because we couldn't get them near. Who were the ones who were able to find solutions? Who were they again? Ed Philip, Shelley Martel, Bud Wildman, Tony Martin, Bob Rae. Again New Democrats, who went out and found solutions when nobody else could get those partners together.

They got workers involved with the private sector within the company itself, the municipalities, some government money, the banks themselves with regard to their liability to this whole thing, and we put together a deal that was able to save a number of jobs within the community of Sault Ste Marie, very important. Atikokan, when it comes to the parole board—the list goes on and on.

I can keep on talking, community after community, but in the end who is it that's going out and doing these things? It's not Brian Mulroney. If it was Peterson here, they wouldn't do it; their track record is not very good when you look at the Adams mine, when you look at Temagami in regard to the Sherman mine. I was there when they were doing the closure negotiations and there wasn't a government member to be found.

Who was it that went in and put workplace programs to train workers how to read and write so they can read an application form when they go out to try to find a job after 20 or 25 years of being employed in one mine? They were the people from this side, people like me, people that worked in the literacy movement, trade union people, the party, the New Democratic Party that was involved in lobbying the provincial government to put together a program called BEST.

We've always gone out and tried to find those solutions, because we recognize that you just can't leave it up to the old boys' club, because the old boys' club will serve itself. That's the way the system is. I have no difficulty standing here and saying I'm a New Democrat, because I say that with pride and I say it with conviction. I have no doubt in my mind that if in 1992 there wasn't a New

Democratic government in Ontario, the things that I talked about would have never happened.

It would have been those people, the Conservatives under the leadership of Mike Harris, and they would have had the slash-and-cut-type philosophy. It would have been, "Go and get 10% or 15% from each ministry." A little secret for those people: If you go into a small ministry and you take 15% it's not like taking 15% out of a large ministry. The same thing when it comes to agencies: If you have an agency with a \$100,000 budget and an agency with a budget of \$2 million and you say, "Give me 10%," I can tell you what's going to happen to the small agencies.

That's their voodoo economics. The trickle-down theory of the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party doesn't work. That's why we're in the mess that we're in now, because we tried the trickle-down theory. We moved from a time in this country, in this province, where we had a system by which we had ownership within our economy as Canadians.

Under the leadership of Mr Mulroney, for whatever reason—he thought it was right—and people like Mr Peterson and Mr Davis before, they moved further and further to trickle-down economics and we've seen what that got us. A whole American election was fought on that and they turfed Mr Bush out on his ear. I think that's a sign of things to come. People are fed up. They're saying: "We want to be part of it. If this is a democracy, we must be partners in this democracy and we must be real partners."

The difficulty with that is, like I said in the beginning, when you start involving people in the process and you start opening up the process, you become much more exposed, and when you become more exposed, you're more open to criticism because there's a lot more there to see, a lot more to pick at. The opposition party, that's a role, I accept that—that is the role of the opposition. I only wish they would be somewhat more constructive in their opposition because I'll tell you, sitting here every day listening to that stuff on the other side of the House is very difficult to take, because we know and they know as well that there are people out there hurting and there are people who want us to deal with real issues.

The media, well, they have papers to sell, that's a business, and you don't sell papers by reporting good news. I learned that a long time ago; I used to work in advertising. You sell papers by having something like a car crash, an economic turndown, a 2,000-person layoff somewhere in a plant. That's what sells papers. It's not to say those things aren't happening—they are happening—but if we're going to come out of this recession, one of the things that's key to it is the attitude that we take as government members, as members of this assembly both in opposition and in government, and as people in the private sector, the trade union movement, and the average citizen out in the province of Ontario.

We have to say to ourselves, "Yes, we have problems." The glass is not half empty, it's half full, and the only way we have to go is up. If we start taking an attitude like that, we can turn this recession around on its ear a heck of a lot quicker than we can the other way. But if they don't want to cooperate on the other side, we will keep on trudging,

we will keep on being an open government, we will do those things that we've done because we believe those are the right things to do. That's what's important and key to the province of Ontario.

2340

You talk about partnerships. Under Minister Shelley Martel, with the Ministry of Mines, we opened up a partnership with the private sector, because we have a lot of problems in mining. The high dollar—at one point; now it's come down—took its toll on the gold mining and copper mining industry. The price of base metals and precious metals went down drastically. There were a number of things in regard to regulatory questions within the province and within the country itself over a period of years. A whole bunch of things happened within the mining industry in order to turn the tables somewhat: Where we were one of the strongest mining economies in the world, we're no longer the strongest. We're not the weakest, we're still doing pretty good, but we're not where we were five or 10 years ago.

The problem we have in the mining industry today wasn't caused by Bill 40, as the members of the opposition would make you believe. My God, give me a break. They're all unionized; they've never scabbed their operations. When you talk to people in the mining sector, they recognize that. Sure, the rhetoric goes on, but what caused the problem within the mining industry was all of the things that happened for a number of years. It took time to get where it is.

This government, under the leadership of people like Bob Rae and Shelley Martel and myself, went out and we met with the private sector; we met with the PDAC and people like Steve Perry, the various people in the mining industry. We sat down and said: "Listen, let's build a partnership. It's to our mutual interest if the mining industry does well." They identified a number of things they wanted us to do, so we acted on those.

We set up a geoscience database, from \$24 million to \$26 million, so we can put on the geoscience database the information prospectors need to go out into the northern area—and hopefully one of these days in the south if we're able to find more minerals there—and do a better job of prospecting and surveying our area so we can find more mines.

We went out and we created a one-window approach to permitting, because the mining industry, especially the prospectors, had identified that as being a very big problem. Every time they wanted a permit, they had to go to three ministries. We said, "We agree with you; that's foolishness," so we signed a memorandum of understanding between three ministries that were responsible and made it a one-window approach, where people would come to one ministry, the Ministry of Mines, and get their permits.

One of the things they talked about is the whole attitudinal question we talked about a little while ago, that people in southern Ontario, for a number of reasons—because of education, ad campaigns and a number of other things—have never seen northern Ontario for what it really is, particularly the mining industry. So we put together an ad campaign through the Ministry of Northern Development

and Mines in order to try to educate people in southern Ontario, to explain that mining is a high-tech industry, very high-tech, probably one of the most high-tech industries in Ontario, probably more than a car plant.

People don't realize the technology in mining; that mining is a safe industry compared to a number of other industries out there; that it's a good way of life for workers, for the communities that have mines in them and for the people who work there; that they pay their fair share of taxes; that the total amount of money generated within the mining industry in the province of Ontario is extremely important to this economy.

It's unfortunate that we had to go out and advertise that. God, you would think people would know these things. But one of the challenges I sent to the mining industry, and I've said it a number of times, is that it is our responsibility in the mining industry to make sure that people understand that and that we brag about some of the things we do well. We talk about how we are the strongest and one of the best countries in the world when it comes to mining. We have the best technologies, the best mining methods, we have the best mineral deposit areas in the world right around Timmins, the Porcupine fault, and we have to talk about those things. We have to go out there and shake the bush and let people know, because we've always been a very secretive industry, for some reason.

The other thing we did was to put together one of the things they had asked for. Because the federal government had withdrawn from something called flow-through shares and had not put anything in its place in order to pick up the slack, the province of Ontario, the New Democratic government under the leadership of Shelley Martel and Bob Rae and other people such as that, went out and said, "Listen, we recognize that there's a problem." We worked with them in order to develop a number of different options in regard to incentives within the province of Ontario for mining. We put those into a document and some of our own ideas, and now we're working with the mining industry to say, "Let's pick the one that's going to have the most net benefit for the economy of Ontario."

Why should we, as the province of Ontario and the government, strictly the government, make that decision? The people in the mining industry know best. They know the tools they need, so let's work together. Sure, there'll be a process by which the mining industry will want this much and we'll only be able to give that much, but they recognize that. We recognize that we can't give everything and they recognize that they can't get everything, but by working together we'll come up with an option that makes some sense.

Now there are some really good discussions around success-based incentives, by which the more successful you are in the mining industry, the higher the incentive return on your dollar investment. That was a good idea that was formulated between both of those parties, but again it's a question of forming partnerships, and that's what this is all about.

I notice the member on the other side is getting ready to speak and looks somewhat bored, but that's the reality. The province of Ontario, because of society the way it is, has to be able to—

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): Excuse me.

Mr Bisson: I see I woke him up. The problem is that we have to open up this process. If we live in something that's called a democracy, it means to say that people have to participate; and if people participate, it means to say that you have to open the system; if you open the system, that means to say that we have to listen as a government, but there has to be some give and take between the public and its government, and we have to find better ways of working together.

Rather than sitting there, all of us, and banging each other over the head with a stick over who's going to come out on top—I don't think that's a very useful exercise for anybody. We need to put our differences aside and sit down as partners, and we have to work together at finding some solutions to some very difficult problems.

I'm confident, because of the experiences I've seen over the past two years in some of the things I talked about earlier, the Kapuskasings, the Elliot Lakes, the Atikokans, the Sault Ste Maries of this world, that by sitting down together we can find some solutions that are to the mutual benefit of all.

If we do the same thing within our MUSH transfer agencies and we work with them in finding the same kinds of partnerships such as we started, I'm sure we're going to be able to do the kinds of things that need to be done that will save money for the taxpayers of the province of Ontario, that will put the province of Ontario in a better fiscal position and that in the end will still deliver the services to the people of the province.

With that, I'd like to thank you very much for having this opportunity to have a few words in this debate.

The Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Cochrane South for his contribution to the debate, and recognize the honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin.

Mr Brown: Gilles, I was really quite excited by what you were saying. I was really quite enthralled with the member for Cochrane South's apology, rationalization, of a government policy that has resulted in 18% unemployment in northern Ontario. For anybody to stand up and talk about partnerships and talk about doing things right with 18% unemployment in the north—it questions anybody's credibility.

The fact that this government is reinventing history also somewhat disturbs me. I would like to take the House back to 1989-90.

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): Boom times.

Mr Brown: The member says "Boom times," and he's right. That fiscal year there was a surplus in the province of Ontario, the first surplus in the province in some 20 years. There was a surplus in 1989-90 of \$400 million, I believe, a \$400-million surplus.

What has happened in the intervening years is that we now have deficits of \$10 billion, \$11 billion, \$12 billion, and there's a recession. Yes, there's a recession; yes, there are problems. The question we have to ask ourselves is, why is Ontario's economy performing at such a low level, performing worse than virtually any of the provinces in this great country? We are doing worse. We're the province that

has historically led Canada, we're the province that has proudly paid the bills in this nation, and we're the province that is performing badly.

As I listened to the member for Cochrane South, he didn't mention one key word. The word he didn't mention was "jobs." He didn't say one word about jobs. He talked about the rationalizations that are going on in northern Ontario and in this province as a whole, but not one word about jobs. The reality in northern Ontario is 18% unemployment. I'll tell you, in my riding 18% would be considered good.

2350

My riding has experienced probably as difficult times as any riding in Ontario. In the Elliot Lake-North Shore area, we have lost 3,400 good jobs in the mines. This government can take credit for laying off directly 1,100 of those miners, and in 1995 it's going to get the next 600. It was a government decision. It was a policy of this government, a direction of this government to Ontario Hydro. They laid those men and women off.

They said before the election that those jobs would all be saved, that Ontario Hydro would have to buy all its uranium from Elliot Lake, I guess in perpetuity. That's what the government said. But one of the first acts of this government was to lay those people off. I don't think the people of Elliot Lake are going to be particularly impressed with the way this government keeps its promises.

I also want to raise the issue of Ontario Hydro in general. As people would know, northern Ontario uses 13% of the electricity in this province. It does that because in northern Ontario we have resource industries and heavy industry. It produces only 9% of the electricity in this province, meaning it's a net importer of electricity, meaning that we in northern Ontario are particularly affected by policies relating to Ontario Hydro. We are feeling the impact of the rates.

The people in the mining industry, the people in the forestry industry, the people in retirement living in Elliot Lake, the people on the farms in Mindemoya, cannot stand the kind of increases we are seeing from Ontario Hydro. They drive jobs out of this province and they take money out of people's pockets who just can't afford it.

In addition, this government does not seem to want to move on Hydro projects in northern Ontario to balance what is an imbalance. This government does not want to do that. They promised. The Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the then chair of Ontario Hydro came to my riding and proudly announced that Patten Post, a large hydro-electric project, would be fast-tracked. They promised that the jobs from Patten Post would come to the area as quickly as possible. Some two weeks ago they deferred Patten Post. They said that's not going to happen for at least 10 years. I'll tell you, that is not going to help the people in the area now.

They also promised there would be a cogeneration plant on the North Shore. They promised there would be a cogeneration plant at Algoma Mills. It was on the short list. It was approved in principle. It is now deferred.

There's probably at least 50% unemployment in the area—50% unemployment and the people in my area are

having Hydro projects put off and deferred when Ontario Hydro was at one time, although indirectly, the largest employer in the area.

I'm the critic for the Ministry of Natural Resources and I want to indicate something about that ministry just because I think it's indicative probably of all ministries of this government. Members have talked about priorities, they've talked about the difficult spending situation we're in. I would be the last to be telling you as a government that you should be spending more. As a matter of fact, I think you're spending too much. I think you've got your priorities all wrong. The Ministry of Natural Resources demonstrates that about as clearly as any ministry in this province. The Ministry of Natural Resources was cut by 1% to 1.5% in its total budget.

Hon Mr Wildman: It was 8%.

Mr Brown: The minister says 8%. I don't think it's quite 8%, but that's okay. They were cut, but what did they choose to spend their remaining dollars on? They chose to increase their spending on policy information and research by 23%, a 23% increase in people planning things, researching things and sending information out around the province. What did they do in operations? They cut operations by 6%, so money to conservation authorities, money to the forests of Ontario, money to actually do things was cut by 6%. But those people who got the job as consultants, they're doing fine, thank you very much.

Now, that might not be all that bad if in fact we did not see an increase in payroll costs of the Ministry of Natural Resources in excess of 11%. The inflation in this province was about 1.5%. The increase in the wages and benefits in the Ministry of Natural resources was 11%, actually slightly more. That left considerably less money to pay for important things that I believe all the people in Ontario believe are important.

One of the things that employs people is the tree seedling program, where we plant trees in our forests. It makes a lot of sense. The minister agrees with me, but he's got no money to do it because he's spending money on research, information and an 11% increase in the payroll.

I asked the minister about what he's going to do in the forest this year, because last year he reduced the number of trees planted on crown land by about 30 million. We don't even know. I've asked him what he's going to do for the tree seedling growers, if he's going to let contracts so we can bring Ontario's sustainable forestry up to a reasonable level, and he doesn't know. But he's going to tell us. But he's already months late. We're looking for a good increase in both the tending budget and the number of trees to be planted in our forests. It's very critical, both environmentally and from the forest products industry's point of view.

I recognize that it's getting very close to 12 of the clock. I shall pick up my remarks at the next opportunity. Thank you.

The Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin. It being 12 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 2400.

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Tuesday 1 December 1992

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Mardi 1 décembre 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 1 December 1992

The House met at 1332.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

COLLÈGES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

M. Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa-Est) : Les francophones du nord ont voulu rappeler aux ministres concernés en fin de semaine dernière que la période de trois semaines est passée depuis longtemps. Il est temps que le gouvernement néo-démocrate respecte son engagement de créer un collège francophone dans le nord de l'Ontario.

Le dossier des collèges francophones traîne sur le bureau du Ministre depuis des mois. Ça devait pourtant être réglé en trois semaines.

Le Ministre ne s'est pas gêné en juin dernier pour annoncer la création de deux nouveaux collèges francophones. Plutôt que de faire des annonces en l'air pour se faire de la publicité, le Ministre aurait dû s'assurer avant de la participation du fédéral.

Maintenant, qu'est-ce que vous faites ? Avez-vous exercé des pressions sur le gouvernement fédéral, ou avez-vous encore décidé tout simplement de laisser tomber les francophones du nord ?

Il y a plus de deux ans, vous avez promis la lune aux francophones de l'Ontario. Je ne pense pas que vous ayez rempli une seule de vos promesses. Il va pourtant falloir que vous fassiez quelque chose. Sinon, je vais vous dire ce que vous allez avoir sur la conscience : un taux anormalement élevé de chômage et d'analphabétisme chez les francophones et une escalade du taux d'assimilation.

Ce genre de chose-là ne profite à personne. Ce n'est pas productif. Un collège dans le nord, c'est sûrement un bon moyen de relance économique.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I rise today with some suggestions for the Minister of the Environment on what she should do to get a handle on her waste management responsibility.

Waste management is undoubtedly one of the most difficult, controversial and potentially confrontational issues the provincial government deals with. However, if the minister were to follow some basic commonsense principles, she could minimize these problems.

First, she should devise, in consultation with municipalities, for land owners who are displaced by the development of waste management facilities, a suggested compensation policy which is fair and equitable and reflects the degree of inconvenience these people experience.

Secondly, she should redouble her efforts to explain the environment assessment process. Simply put, people do not presently understand it; consequently they have no confidence in it.

Thirdly, she should stop blindly endorsing the positions of the extreme environmental pressure groups. This prevents the minister from responsibly and fairly evaluating all waste management alternatives, such as energy from waste, state-of-the-art incineration and rail haul of garbage to willing host sites in northern Ontario.

Lastly, she needs to provide the leadership she promised in the 1990 election. Only her ministry, with an operating budget of \$429 million, has the expertise and the resources to plan, develop and suggest to municipalities an ideal recommended waste management system. This would end the absolute duplication which is going on presently in Ontario, as dozens of counties and regions are presently undertaking long-term waste management master plans, each one largely duplicating the efforts of its neighbours. In Wellington county and the city of Guelph, the process, over 10 years, has cost \$4.2 million to date.

Minister, there has to be a better way to do this, but you must provide the leadership. I respectfully request that you respond favourably to these suggestions.

ENVIRONMENTAL POSTER CONTEST

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): Last week, you may recall, I praised several students at Prince of Wales Public School in Windsor for sending drawings depicting the way they viewed peace in the world.

Today I congratulate a La Salle student for her very sensitive view about keeping the environment clean. She along the way has captured first place in a contest sponsored by the Essex waste management committee.

I place forward the name of Camilla Mutak, an 11-year-old grade 6 pupil at La Salle's École Sacré-Coeur. She received first place for her entry in the school poster contest.

Camilla's poster has the caption "Keep the Pathway Toward a Greener Future Clean." Her poster depicts a brick path curving through a green parkland towards a brilliant sun. Camilla has also expressed a very sincere interest in working as an environmental activist in the future. Today she is a proud student in La Salle, and equally proud of Camilla are her teachers and, of course, her classmates.

Here are some of the other winners in the poster contest: from Windsor, Amy Benoit, Kelly Organ, Crystal Gauvin, Avani Patel, and also Scott Miller from General Brock Public School, plus Chris Reynolds from Prince Andrew school in La Salle. Honourable mention went to Kristi Hamel, Christine Dufour and Josie Breton from École Sacré-Coeur.

In all, 60 posters were received in this competition. I would like to congratulate all the students who submitted their posters for this contest.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Beer (York North): To the Minister of Education: Minister, there is a continuing crisis of confidence in your leadership of the educational system. The

problem, quite frankly, is that no one believes in your promises any more.

Last April in this press release, you promised \$50 million for the school boards of this province. They have not seen one cent, and it is rumoured that they won't see any of this money at all. Minister, you owe the educational community an explanation. You owe them a clear accounting in terms of what has happened to that \$50 million.

Last week you took away your government's commitment to increase school board funding to 2% in 1992-93 and in 1993-94. Boards had planned on those dollars. They had made commitments with those dollars. They had signed agreements with those dollars. Now you say you have a \$99-million fund which you might provide to those boards that meet your priorities.

Minister, will any of this money actually go to the education system? Are you going to meet with your so-called partners to look at ways they think they can best spend these dollars? How are you going to help the 17 or 18 school boards already facing deficits? How are you going to help boards implement your proposed curriculum changes, destreaming, junior kindergarten, special education and the adoption of a common curriculum from junior kindergarten to grade 9?

Minister, these are real issues and real problems. How are you going to regain credibility and ensure that we can all believe in your promises once again? Right now, all we have is a profound sense of betrayal.

1340

LANDFILL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The battle to stop the dumps in the greater Toronto area is proceeding to the courtroom. The New Democratic Party has refused to hear the concerns about the dumps from the communities, from the property owners and from individuals, so now a judge will force the NDP to listen.

York region has an excellent case and will launch the courtroom attack on two fronts. First, York region will use the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to prove that it has been unjustly treated and forced to take Metro's garbage. Secondly, York region will argue under section 14 of Bill 143, the Waste Management Act, that the Interim Waste Authority should review the alternatives to landfilling, such as rail haul. Yet the IWA ignores these options, choosing instead to follow the commands of "meanster" Grier.

York regional council remains firm and has reaffirmed its support to continue the fight. In the words of Eldred King, the York regional chairman, "Not one ounce of Metro's garbage will mar the landscape of York region."

The New Democratic Party government is dumping on York region and Peel and York and Pickering, wherever, and treating all the communities unfairly. If it takes a legal battle to stop the IWA process and put an end to the NDP tyranny, I say charge ahead.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Today marks the beginning of White Ribbon Week. I'd like to stand in my place now and commend my executive assistant and others like him, who left their homes very early this morning and occupied strategic places in the downtown core of Toronto to offer literature and white ribbons to those going into their offices this morning to start work, to recognize and bring this to the forefront.

I have some things I would encourage members to listen to and the viewers who are watching to listen to and to pass the word. There are a few things we can do to stop the violence against women. We can wear a white ribbon from today through to December 6. We can get our male friends to wear a white ribbon. We can object to sexually demeaning pictures of women in the workplace, and we all know they exist. We can examine our own behaviour, how we might be contributing to the problem. We can contribute to our local shelter for battered women, rape crisis centre or other women's programs. We can join others in our community to insist that the police lay charges in all cases of wife assault. We can write to the media or to the advertisers to object to demeaning images of women that we see in our newspapers. Finally, we can make a small monthly contribution to the white ribbon campaign.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): Members of the Liberal caucus are shocked that the Minister of Agriculture and Food introduced legislation that will fine Ontario farmers up to \$2,000 if they fail to register or pay fees under the NDP stable funding law. What is perhaps even more incredible is that the minister, minutes after introducing his bill, said that he was also shocked that the legislation contained the \$2,000 fine.

What's going on? How could this have happened? How could the minister, on an issue as important and sensitive as this to the Ontario farm community, not know the details of his own legislation? The incompetence of this government becomes more obvious every day.

We in the Liberal caucus join with the farmers and farm groups across Ontario, including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, in demanding to know what the Minister of Agriculture and Food is prepared to do to fix his shocking mistake. What amendments will be introduced to Bill 105? Will the minister tell us today that he will withdraw this offensive part of Bill 105 that would make it legal to fine our farmers \$2,000 for not filing or paying fees under the stable funding plan? We will be watching the minister very carefully to see what his next move will be to clean up this mess which is of his own creation.

ST CLAIR COLLEGE

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I stand in the House today to congratulate St Clair College of Windsor. The college has initiated Canada's first gaming and dealing program. The gaming assistant program began in October of this year, training students to deal and work in casinos.

It is a true pleasure to see our school system plan and prepare for the future while on the other hand we see this government continue to plow ahead without any planning or studies. The college approached the casino project team from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations as opposed to the ministry seeing an opportunity to train and employ people for the positions that will obviously become available when the Windsor pilot project opens in 1993.

How ironic and laudable that the college saw an opportunity and capitalized on it. That almost sounds like free enterprise capitalism, those terrible words that this NDP government hates to hear. This NDP government has inadvertently encouraged a small example of free enterprise.

Perhaps we should pause for a few moments to reflect on this revelation. The pilot project is obviously going to go through with its plan to open the Windsor casino with or without an impact study on the repercussions of its actions.

I applaud St Clair College for its insight in preparing for the opening of the casino and wish it success with its new program. I only wonder how they are going to fund this new program when the government has chosen to cut funding to colleges and universities. Perhaps St Clair College in Windsor is the actual site for the pilot project, a perfect opportunity for co-op education. The unfortunate students will spend all their money gambling at the casino—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member's time has expired.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I'd like to draw your attention to a Toronto Star article of last spring:

"The first shot hit her in the face. It was meant to kill her"—the woman referred to was a Francine Nicholas—"but it didn't. She was hit in the right shoulder blade, chest and twice in the back...Her six children watched everything, screaming.

"On the Thursday before the shooting, she told [her husband] she had decided to leave him and move into...Denise House." Today, that woman speaks to audiences about her 11-year marriage and how she was made to believe that the consistent beatings were her fault.

Between 1974 and 1990, 900 women have been killed by abusive men. Most of these women were killed as they were attempting to leave an abusive relationship, just as Francine did. It's at this point of transition that they most need our help and sensitivity.

I'd like to mention the courage that this woman, Francine Nicholas, daily evidences. I had the honour of meeting with her twice last week. She spoke to me of the many ways that our system fails women like her. She states that she was given false assurances by a counsellor and she demands that he be made accountable to her and to the very many other women whose lives and whose safety he may have endangered.

We have made our services accountable. We have to make those services accountable to these clients. Vulnerable clients of social services have every right that health

professionals' clients should have. Social workers and their agencies should be regulated and made accountable for the quality and sensitivity of those services.

ANNUAL REPORT, PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the annual report of the Provincial Auditor of Ontario, covering audits completed through August 31, 1992.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

NON-UTILITY GENERATION

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): I'm pleased to announce today the Ontario government support for a project that will create jobs today and protect the environment for the future.

Today the Premier is in Cambridge announcing details of provincial assistance to Nicholls-Radtke Group Inc of Cambridge.

Our assistance will help to create a new venture called Innovative Steam Technologies, IST, in Cambridge. My ministry is providing a \$4.8-million loan which is contingent on the company meeting guidelines for capital expenditures and job creation.

Our assistance will enable IST to develop and commercialize a new technology for cogeneration equipment.

It's expected to create more than 230 jobs here in Ontario and to capture international opportunities in the cogeneration market.

The project involves an investment of \$24 million over the next five years by IST's partners, Nicholls-Radtke Group and Solar Turbines Inc of San Diego. Innovative Steam is a 50-50 joint venture between these two companies.

IST will manufacture and market once-through steam generators in Ontario. Clients will be able to generate their own electricity using energy recovered from their heating systems.

In addition to improving energy efficiency, the technology provides a range of environmental benefits including water conservation, solid and liquid waste reduction and the elimination of chemical treatment of the feed water system.

Ontario's support for this project demonstrates our commitment to fostering a growing environmental and energy conservation industry in this province.

This project fits in very well with Ontario's green industry strategy. It will strengthen an environmental technology producer so it can serve an expanding market, both domestic and foreign.

This project encourages Ontario's participation in the development of non-utility electrical power generation and provides the additional business opportunity for Nicholls-Radtke to access other export markets. In fact, more than 90% of these generators will be slated for the US market.

Other benefits of this joint venture include spinoff jobs at the local level during construction of IST's facilities.

I am pleased that we've been able to join with Nicholls-Radtke and its partner, Solar Turbines, to help make this project a reality.

This project is an important step in creating jobs today and restructuring Ontario's economy so that we can compete in the emerging markets of high value added, environmentally friendly industries in the future.

1350

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): I'd like to respond to the minister's statement, and I want to preface my remarks by saying that any time anyone opens a plant in Ontario or proposes to open a plant in Ontario, I'm supportive. But I really do think this notice is somewhat overblown.

To propose that this is going to be, as the minister stated, "an important step in creating jobs today and restructuring Ontario's economy" is patently absurd. The number of jobs that are going to be created are maybe 230 over five years. That works out to 46 jobs a year. When you consider that every three days a plant closes in Ontario and every single day 500 jobs are lost in Ontario, to suggest that this is going to be something that is going to turn this province around, as I say, is absurd.

Another thing I think should be noted is that in the statement the minister states that this particular loan is contingent on the company meeting guidelines for capital expenditure and job creation. So we don't even know whether they will meet those guidelines. It would seem to me to be premature to make an announcement before you know whether or not it is going to happen.

Yesterday I questioned the Premier about a real investment opportunity, an investment of \$500 million that Toyota is considering. I asked the Premier what the results of his deliberations were. He gave me a very noncommittal answer. I have since found out it was never even discussed. Now, here's an opportunity for \$500 million to come into Ontario and this government is doing nothing about it. As I predicted yesterday, it will probably wind up in Mexico or wind up in Kentucky.

I welcome any initiative that is going to create activity in Ontario, but I think this government should try to put forward projects that are welcome but should certainly not portray them as being major steps in turning the province around in an economic point of view.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Further responses?

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I want to take advantage of this opportunity to address the specific issue of cogeneration that's raised in the minister's statement. The minister tells us that he'll be promoting a cogeneration manufacturing industry in Ontario, and I hope that the sales are good outside the province, because there's no opportunity for sales within. That's so because at this time, Mr Speaker, as you well know, Ontario Hydro, with the consent of the government, has effectively put a moratorium on any cogeneration projects within the province except for those that generate less than five megawatts.

There are a number of proposals that are on the table at this time and a number of people across the province who have some exciting projects in terms of cogeneration, but they simply cannot proceed as a result of Ontario Hydro at

the present time being unable to commit with respect to the specifics in terms of how much electricity we're going to need in the future and how much in fact we need at the present time.

One case in point deals with the project in Sudbury. That's an exciting project. It has some real possibilities, but we're somewhat confused in terms of the Minister of Energy's position. He told us in the House at one time that this project would not be proceeding because to do so would result in a commensurate increase in hydro rates for everyone else who remains on stream. But lately, as a result of, I gather, some pressure being applied to members in the government who hold their seats in and around the area of Sudbury, this government is now considering proceeding with the Sudbury project. The questions that we have are, of course: At what cost will this be to the remaining ratepayers and what about those people in other areas, like Kingston? What about Windsor and what about Toronto? All of these areas have come forward with various projects, and they're very anxious as well. I'm sure that those projects have a great deal of merit.

The minister tells us that he's interested in making an industry within the province competitive, and if he really has a sincere interest in doing that, then what he's got to look to is reducing our skyrocketing hydro rates, which will be going up effectively some 30% over three years. We're losing industry as a direct result of those skyrocketing rates, and in turn we are losing jobs. Hydro remains in a state of chaos. We've got an environmental assessment hearing proceeding at the present time. We're spending millions of dollars on that. It will take years, and all to consider a plan which has been effectively gutted and is only a shadow of its former self. I hope to see much more in terms of really making this province competitive.

The Speaker: Responses, third party.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I'm pleased to stand, and any time we can get 230 jobs it's a happy day in the province of Ontario. Unfortunately, we lose 500 jobs a day. It's interesting that we finally get a statement from this minister. This minister was in Ireland, he was in Pakistan, he was in India, and we thought he was going to come back—with all the jobs and the projects that he had, there wasn't one statement out of this minister. I say to the minister, what did you do on your trip? Where were the jobs? Where were the investments in Pakistan, in Ireland and in India? Not one announcement. Quite frankly, he has been a disaster in terms of bringing investment to this province. Literally, as he is talking about this project, GM is saying it may have to move out because of hydro rates.

A year ago, in our first New Directions, not to be confused with our second New Directions, we talked about technology, pages 16 and 17, to create jobs in the environment. A year later, they start getting around to doing it. I say to this minister: Mr Minister, if you'd listened to us before, we'd be a lot farther ahead in the province of Ontario.

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I would like to draw to the minister's attention the position that's been taken by the Ministry of the Environment on cogeneration.

I wonder, really, whether these people are working together or strictly independent of one another, because here we have a \$4.8-million loan going to this company for new technology to develop steam. What the new technology is, we don't have that information. Hopefully, it's something relative to solar, so that you're not putting more CO₂ into the atmosphere and creating more problems with the ozone layer.

1400

The Ministry of the Environment is cutting off any consideration for the burning of garbage because of the emissions into the air, and here we are giving a \$4.8-million loan to this company to create new technologies for steam. So I would like more information, Mr Minister, relative to those new technologies.

Our leader and the member for Parry Sound on three different occasions, Mr Minister, have been pleading with your government to support the industry at Sudbury. That industry in Sudbury, for cogeneration, would not only employ many, many people but would bring millions of dollars into the province, would provide a market for corn crops for the farmers in southern Ontario, and this project in Sudbury is being almost shelved by this government. I understood they had to make up their minds by yesterday if they were going to support the cogeneration project for the city of Sudbury. I hoped that today either the Minister of Energy or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology would be able to inform this House as to their decision on that major project in Sudbury.

As to the cogeneration projects right here in Ontario that my colleague has mentioned, regarding Kingston and Toronto, these utilities have very sound cogeneration projects but are not able to proceed because Hydro has put a block in their way. There's no way that they, under the present Power Corporation Act, can proceed without Hydro's permission to develop those large and useful projects.

Mr Minister, we must also note that 90% of this product will be exported to the United States. That raises some question in our minds as to why, when we invest \$4.8 million in loan money to develop a new technology, we can't make use of it here in the province of Ontario in trying to establish a stable and reasonable rate for energy in this province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Today, as everyone knows well, we received the auditor's report on the government's management of its financial affairs and we are concerned about a number of issues that are raised.

One of the issues of greatest concern is the indication of mismanagement within the family benefits program administration. I raise this question with the minister because she knows well that over the past two years, municipalities have repeatedly shared with her and with her government their concerns about the growing cost of welfare.

The Treasurer himself has often referred to welfare as one of the costs that is increasing at an unprecedented rate, and we all know the reasons for that. The Treasurer has clearly indicated that one of the reasons for his deficit being so out of control is the increased costs of welfare payments. Yet, despite all these concerns, the province seems to have taken no action at all to come to grips with the costs of welfare in the province and what it might be able to do to control unnecessary costs.

According to the auditor's report, more than \$220 million a year is spent on unnecessary welfare payments. I would ask the minister, given all of the concerns about the costs of this program, can she explain why problems such as overpayment and fraud were not clearly identified by the ministry, and why steps were not taken to at the very least enforce existing ministry procedures?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): I certainly can't tell the member why this was not done in the past. I can tell her that it has been done in the present and that in fact the auditor's report acknowledges what the ministry has done over the last year in order to improve the situation.

I announced in this House last year, following the budget, that we would be hiring additional staff. This was the issue that was noted by the auditor as being the major problem, that the average case load of approximately 500 cases to one worker was the major problem we had.

We have hired, as of June 30, 200 additional staff, and the additional 250 that we were allocated will be in place by March 31. That was an investment, with the offices and all the equipment, of about \$18 million. Indications are that for the cost of that investment that we made this year, we will get back approximately \$300 million. So the auditor's report was right, that when you are properly staffed and can monitor a system properly, you can effect great savings. That is what we are doing.

Mrs McLeod: I acknowledge that in the auditor's report he recognizes a number of areas in which inadequate staffing has caused the problem to be even greater than it would be otherwise. I acknowledge the fact as well that the government did move very belatedly, in May 1992, to address some of the staffing problems. I would ask whether they could not have acted much earlier, given the fact that this concern has been raised over and over again for the last two years.

But I would like to draw the minister's attention to one of the issues raised by the auditor which cannot be addressed simply by adding new staff. That's the issue of fraud, which the auditor has identified.

The auditor estimates that fraud has cost between \$70 million and \$100 million annually. He cites examples of cases where the ministry staff was aware of cases of fraud but did not take action. I would quote from the auditor's report directly where he says, "The ministry has established guidelines to deal with fraud.... [But] efforts to prevent and detect fraud were insufficient.... Despite the existence of procedures to follow up on potential frauds, the ministry was not aggressive in prosecuting suspects or in obtaining restitution."

The auditor cites a specific example where a recipient and a spouse had worked full-time for over three years and had not reported all their income. That alleged fraud alone cost the ministry \$25,000, and neither a civil nor a criminal case was pursued. The response of the ministry to the auditor was that the ministry offices said they did not prosecute frauds of this nature.

I ask the minister, why would your ministry not follow its own guideline to deal with very clear, known cases of fraud?

Hon Mrs Boyd: I think the member asks a very good question. I certainly was distressed to understand that this apparently had been the kind of process that was followed. Since June, we have put 30 new eligibility review officers into place with very strong instructions that if we are to maintain the integrity of the social assistance system, we must indeed show ourselves to be much more vigorous. That is actually an increase that brings the total to 54, so there were very few eligibility review officers there in place. I share the concern of the member.

I would like to say, however, that the auditor himself indicated that although the dollars involved are serious and we must take account of those, the rate of fraud is anywhere from about 2.5% to 3.5%. It's really important for us, when we talk about this issue, to accept responsibility for ensuring that we are acting effectively to prevent fraud, but fraud is not the issue in terms of the social assistance costs we face. It is only one of many issues. In fact, the recession and the job situation are the major problems that face the social assistance situation.

Mrs McLeod: I also want to raise with the minister another area the auditor has noted. That's the area of failure to verify the information provided by clients, that information on which the payments are assessed. The auditor indicates that actual costs were not verified in 27% of the cases he reviewed, and that in 12% of the cases, the recipients reviewed had dependents and even the birth dates of those dependents were not verified. The minister may suggest that this again was part of the problem with a lack of staffing, but I would suggest the government at an earlier stage made this particular situation even worse when it cancelled the home visits, which allowed some verification to be carried out.

I would ask the minister, in light of what the auditor has said about the failure to verify the information on which these payments are based, what steps she is now prepared to take to ensure that there are full verification measures in place so that payments are indeed based on need and so that the payments that are being made are going to those who truly need that money.

Hon Mrs Boyd: I think this is one of the more serious findings, because although indeed visual verification of documents has always been allowed under the system, the system has always required workers to document that they have seen, and to in fact clearly take responsibility for having seen. The documentation wasn't there and the auditor is quite correct that this at least ought to be done.

We have worked on the guidelines. The new staff that we're bringing in and the existing staff are being trained so

that, very clearly, the documentation is absolutely necessary. We're also looking at an increase in the kind of documentation that may back up certain issues. There have been requests from our staff across the province that we require more official documentation in certain cases. I would cite child care receipts as one that our staff think ought to be required in a more concrete form.

We are working at that, but I share the member's concern. I think that does call into question the integrity of the system, and frankly, that is not something any of us want to see happen.

1410

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): We will return to other aspects of the auditor's report during question period, but in my second question I want to go back to another area that gives us great cause for concern and direct my question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Despite the Treasurer's attempt to camouflage the 0% increase in transfer payments to colleges and universities, hospitals and school boards, the transfer agencies clearly understand that the so-called 2% announcement was worse than nothing. It created a completely false illusion that commitments for next year were still in place, and as the minister knows, that is simply not so.

We all know the Treasurer had a problem. He refused to acknowledge the reality of his financial situation a year ago, so he made promises that he now finds he can't keep and he has pulled the rug out from under his so-called transfer partners.

I would ask the Minister of Colleges and Universities today, did he make the case to the Treasurer on behalf of colleges and universities and the students in our colleges and universities? Did he challenge the Treasurer's approach and lose, or was he simply the bearer of the bad news?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): The ministers who are in charge of each of the transfer areas regularly make their case with the Treasury and with the rest of the government as to the needs of their systems.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): She knows that. The leader knows that.

Hon Mr Allen: You know that. You've been there. You've been a minister in my shoes in the past with regard to this and I'm sure that you did that then too. You also did it of course in your turn when government was rolling in money, and there were lots of things that you didn't respond to at that time. In fact, as I recall, you left this system funded 9th place out of 10 among the provinces of Canada and I don't think that was a very gracious gift to pass on to me.

I would say to you that I think you would equally expect me, as a minister, while on the one hand presenting the case for the universities and colleges, to recognize what the realities of finance are in this province at this time and to try to make the best fisc out of that for everybody. That's precisely what I did. That's what my transfer payment

partners did as colleagues working for their sectors as well. That's essentially the response I have to you, Madam.

Mrs McLeod: I would put the record of our government in providing access to post-secondary education up against the record of this government any day, but I'm not going to take the time to do that this afternoon.

What I want to try and make this minister deal with today are the inconsistencies and the absolute impossible expectations which his government has created for the transfer partners in colleges and universities. Let it be absolutely clear to everyone, basic financial reality: You cannot use one-time only funds to pay salary bills. Let's take that as a given.

Then let me ask the minister to think about the fact that the community colleges' Council of Regents, under the leadership of his former colleague, Richard Johnston, has just settled a contract giving the academic staff of our colleges increases of up to 9% over three years. Quite clearly, despite the government's willingness to break promises, those agreements have to be honoured.

I ask the minister, how does he expect the colleges to keep these agreements with a 0% increase next year, and how many students does he believe will be shut out of our colleges and universities because of the decisions the Treasurer has made?

Hon Mr Allen: I've had predictions of lowered enrolments and lowered access from that side of the House ever since I became minister. None of them have eventuated. In fact, the marginal costs of adding students to both the university and the college systems has been coped with through the excellent management of college and university administrations, and I expect that to go on happening.

There is no reality that I know of that can change the fiscal circumstances of this province. When one has less revenue in hand this year than the year before, something has to be done to manage the systems through that crisis. The simple fact is that the systems will have a 7% increase in tuition fees. That's a \$44-million transfer into their funds. As a result, they will have the equivalent, at the end of the day, of a 3% increment, given the 2%.

That's all intended to help them manage their way to what in fact will be a 0% increment in the 1994-95 year. There's no other way it can happen. People will have to put their shoulders to the wheel—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the minister conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Allen: —and we will have to maintain enrolments and access as best we can.

Mrs McLeod: My question was, how many students does the minister believe will be shut out of colleges and universities next year because of next year's 0% increase, which is the reality that the colleges and universities are facing? I believe, if I heard correctly, that what the minister said was, "I hope there won't be fewer students in the eventuality of the admission procedures of our colleges and universities." It seems to me that's a little bit like building both a budget and a promise on a wish and a prayer.

Let me tell the minister that I believe there will be fewer students going to college and university next year. There will be fewer spaces in our colleges and universities because of a 0% increase. Higher tuitions and no grants will mean that the places that are available will be less affordable for many students. The other reality is that those students who can't get into college and university next year will not find work. They will join the ranks of the unemployed and our youth unemployment will be even higher than the 20% we have seen this year.

In the meantime, this government supports a \$1.2-billion training program for the currently unemployed that simply doesn't work. I ask the minister, why would you keep in place a \$1.2-billion training program that doesn't work while you bring in funding cuts that will put more students in unemployment lines instead of in our colleges and universities?

Hon Mr Allen: The reason I keep a \$1.2-billion training program in place is precisely because it is working. This program is bringing in 300 to 400 new job offers from employers across the province every single week. We have now got up to 4,900 on register. We have 900 people placed. Those placements are happening day after day in a new program.

The leader seems to have bought that strange mathematics that inhabits the front pages of the *Toronto Star*, which tells us that we spent \$1.1 billion and only got 600 jobs. If she wants to indulge in that kind of fanciful stuff, she's welcome to it, but the simple fact of the matter is that this is a widely praised program, it's highly ingenious, it gets value added for every person who goes into the workplace on the training credits program.

It's working now; it'll work tomorrow. We'll fulfil our targets. If she wants to wave her wand in some miraculous fashion in the future, then she's welcome to do that, but let me say that this is a working program and I like it, frankly.

HEALTH CARDS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): In the absence of the Premier and the Treasurer on this, the auditor's report day, I have a question—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Are they not here today?

Mr Harris: I guess they don't care about all the waste. I'm not sure.

I have a question to the Minister of Health regarding the previous Liberal government's plan to fight fraud and abuse of our health services. It seems as though the plan has failed. The system has cost taxpayers \$39 million. What do we get for our money? As much as 300,000 cards are unaccounted for.

Of the \$150 million that at the time of the announcement of this system this was supposed to save, \$137 million of that cannot be found. The system is such a bust that the auditor says, "The province's investment in the registration system is at risk."

Minister, how do you intend to recover the 300,000 missing cards and salvage a very expensive system that has run amok?

1420

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I appreciate the opportunity to address this issue again. I think many of the questions that have been raised with respect to this by the Provincial Auditor have in fact previously been raised in this House by the third party and I think many of the responses that I have given still hold today in terms of the steps we have taken to attempt to address this.

The leader of the third party will know that we established a registration branch. Within that, there is a registration verification unit which has taken steps and has already very successfully started to do validity checks on a whole range of the cards that were out there. We also have an analysis unit which has been helping us answer some of the questions that weren't previously answered.

If you read the auditor's report, you will see that at the time the plan was considered, it is asserted that the ministry didn't adequately consider how it would maintain the accuracy, how it would get the cost benefits out of it, whether or not to use smart card technology, all of those sorts of things.

That analysis work that hadn't been done is going on. We do have a smart card pilot project going on which we are assessing. We are looking at photo identification.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Lankin: We'll be in a position to respond to a number of those issues with actual concrete steps very quickly. I would say that I think the member opposite will want to see good cost analysis done before we embark again on changing anything with respect to this issue.

Mr Harris: The minister will know that five years ago in North Bay, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Ministry of Health had a pilot project for smart cards. We don't need any more pilot projects.

Your deputy minister today, in response to the auditor's report, said, "The ministry maintains an accurate record and count of all health cards that are issued." That was your deputy minister's response today.

Madam Minister, I have here in my hand a health card. This is the one that gives the benefits when you reach age 65, so not only does this access all the system, but this gives full drug benefits as well. This card was issued on November 1, 1992; that's when it becomes effective. However, the lady for whom this card was issued died two and a half years ago. Two and a half years ago. Out automatically goes the new card: "Here you go. Free health care. Free drug benefits as well." You're quite right. Mr Wilson, the member for Simcoe West, has raised this issue with you since April, but you still have done nothing and, as of today, your deputy minister does not even acknowledge that there is a serious problem.

I would ask you this: In view of the fact that every time one of these lost cards is used, we have fewer resources for Ontarians who legitimately deserve health care, and the auditor says 300,000 missing cards—now 300,001—could cost our system \$430 million, how many more cards will be issued to foreigners, to ineligible people, to dead people

before you're going to correct this leak in the whole system?

Hon Ms Lankin: With respect to the example that the member has raised, I have indicated to him that when the registration was done, there was no establishment of a link between information with respect to births and deaths and the issuance of cards. We now have established that with the registrar general, and I think that these sorts of issues will not happen in the future.

I would ask the member to send over at this point in time by page the card and the application there. I would like to take direct action with respect to that and I would hope that before the final supplementary he will send it to me.

With respect to his comments about North Bay and the smart card pilot project, I would ask the member to look at the fact that he is talking about Health and Welfare Canada, with Greenshield, with respect to issuance of drugs and tracking of pharmaceutical billings. It has nothing to do with the issuance of and tracking of information on smart card technology of the whole range of health issues. The reason that we need the pilot project with respect to that has to do with freedom of information and a range of things, policy considerations, that have to be correctly addressed.

I think the steps that the ministry is taking are very adequate and are comprehensive. I would offer to the member that the deputy and the ADM and the people who are involved in this area with myself would be pleased to appear before the public accounts committee to give you a fuller explanation of the steps that have been taken. I'm sure that you would be assured too.

Mr Harris: The member for Simcoe West not only identified the problem last April but also gave you some solutions to have signatures, to have photo IDs, to have cards verified before they can be used. I mean, even Mac's Milk here in southern Ontario and Eaton's, Sears and the gas companies require a card to be validated before it is used. He gave you those suggestions; you now say you're not going to do anything until 1993. I'm happy to solve your problem with one card. If you give me a week or two, maybe I can solve the other 300,000 as well. It's not that complicated.

By way of final supplementary, let me ask you this: Your ministry has been in hot water twice now in a major way for its lack of security since your government took over. I believe the current Minister of Housing could attest to that and I believe the Minister of Northern Development and Mines can attest to that through the e-mail leak.

Yet this \$40-million system that you've put in place that was supposed to control health registration information, we now find out in the auditor's report, can be accessed by over 12,000 people. The auditor found these people could change registration information without authorization, and your ministry has still not assigned accountability for the confidentiality of the information from this system.

Let me ask you today: Minister, have you not learned anything about confidentiality since your government took

over? What measures do you intend to put in place immediately to ensure the security of the health records of the people in this province?

Hon Ms Lankin: There are a couple of issues raised there. Could I point out to the member that we do have, at the very present time, parts of the province where we are utilizing a point-of-use verification of cards and the validity of cards, and we're hoping to be able to build on that. So I think there are steps that have been taken in answer to that question.

With respect to the issues of security, I think the auditor points out a problem that existed in the ministry. I think that has been admitted. We have taken a number of steps, and I think there are more steps to be taken. We continue to work with the advice of the freedom of information and protection of privacy branch within the ministry with respect to procedures, the institution of passwords and a number of particular security measures that I think have addressed the province by and large but can still be improved, and we are working on that.

I would ask the member for a second time to send the card and the application over to me by page at this point in time. That hasn't occurred yet, I would put on the record. May I say to him that with respect to the whole issue of cards, it is very difficult to hear the third party continue on this issue when concrete steps have been taken, when I have stood here and offered to have staff appear before public accounts to address this issue, when I know that the third party was responsible for the 25 million OHIP numbers that were in place that the previous government had to try and address at the time they introduced the new system.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Harris: Obviously, the auditor still is not satisfied today, and the minister will know that I don't entrust these health cards to anyone and I will deliver personally the health card. If you will give me a week to put into place the suggestion of the member for Simcoe West, we'll solve the problem of the other 299,999 cards.

The Speaker: To whom is your second question directed? Does the leader have a second question?

NON-PROFIT HOUSING

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): This regards the black hole of government-subsidized housing. The auditor today raised an issue that I have been raising for three years now, ever since I assumed the leadership of the party, that I have raised as soon as you took office back as far as the 3rd of December, 1990, when I raised similar concerns.

The auditor says you've been paying triple the cost that you should be paying for land for your so-called non-profit housing. The auditor determined that in 1990-91 alone, you could have saved \$64 million in capital costs in only three of the regions that they studied had you paid market value instead of what you pay.

Minister, \$64 million of waste in one year would go a long way in shelter subsidies to house the 20,000 families, and growing, that are waiting for affordable housing in Ontario. I would ask you this: Are you, all your staff and

the thousand employees over at the Ministry of Housing so out of touch with reality, with what's going on in the marketplace, that you could possibly authorize paying three times the market value price for land and not think there was a problem?

1430

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): The member is referring to a part of the auditor's report that deals with procurement for the purposes of development, and they're called turnkey projects. They became something which was available to groups who wanted to develop non-profit housing, particularly in the period when the market fell, after the peak of 1988-89; in other words, in the period 1990-91. The areas in which the auditor did his survey of the procurement cost for turnkeys were in the three highest-cost areas, the three highest-cost regions of the province.

I think what he points out are some serious questions about the whole issue of turnkey procurements. I would agree with the leader of the Conservative Party on that, and we are instituting under the program development for our new 20,000-unit Jobs Ontario Homes program a review of the turnkey procurement option.

Mr Harris: Use all the fancy names for it you want. It's government housing, and it's a disgrace what it's costing the taxpayers; that's just the land cost in only three regions of the province.

At a time when market costs for construction decreased by 16%, government costs increased by 10%. In 1991, this difference alone, for that one year, was \$200 million. Minister, \$200 million worth of shelter subsidies could be used to house over 60,000 families for a full year, three times the number now on your waiting list.

The waste in your government housing programs is growing. It proves that there is clearly both big waste and big profit in non-profit. Will you now accept what I told the previous government and what I have been telling your government ever since you took office? Will you accept this reality that there is big waste and big profit in non-profit? Will you scrap this abominable waste of taxpayers' dollars at the expense of a more modest system of shelter subsidies that will truly help the homeless and those who need help?

Hon Ms Gigantes: Again, I'd like to draw the opposition leader's attention to the specifics of what the auditor had to say, because I think what the auditor had to say was very valuable.

What he did was, taking 1990 as a base, he made a comparison with what he felt should be lower prices in 1991. He did this using an index, which was a quite complicated index conversion from one-bedrooms to equivalent two-bedroom units, and he surveyed 241 projects that were given final approvals in the 1991 period.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Ms Gigantes: In doing this comparison, he was trying to point out that when market prices for land were going down and construction costs were going down, as

they were in 1991, our costs should have been lower, and he estimated that at \$200 million.

I think the point he makes is a good one, and that the maximum unit price which was suggested for the programs, particularly in the high-cost Metro area, was one which was not sensitive enough, and in fact we are working very hard now to make sure that the new program design will reflect not only increases in maximum unit price, but decreases.

Mr Harris: I would say by way of final supplementary that instead of accusing the auditor of fudging the figures, you would be well advised to listen to what I have been telling you for three years and what the auditor is telling you today.

The Provincial Auditor also says, "Multiple waiting lists, inconsistent placement criteria and the referral practices make it unlikely that those in need of affordable housing will be treated consistently, equitably and efficiently."

Minister, I've been telling you that for the two years since you took over, and in those two years I've been telling you that the people who desperately need the most help are not getting that help, and that there is no way of knowing, after spending the billion dollars of subsidies and the billions in capital costs, far in excess of the marketplace, that the right people in fact are getting into the units, those who need help.

You wouldn't listen to me. You wouldn't listen to me as I raised it session after session, question period after question. Will you finally listen to the auditor? Will you now admit that the NDP and Liberal bent towards government-owned housing is a sham, a waste of money and not helping those truly in need? Will you look at a system of shelter subsidies to target that help to the neediest of families, so that with fewer dollars—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Harris: —we can take every single family off the waiting list and get those people who most need the help into decent and affordable housing? Will you admit that today as the auditor has told you?

Hon Ms Gigantes: Mr Speaker, do I get equivalent time?

I have not accused the Provincial Auditor of fudging the figures, not in the least. What I've said is that the message he is delivering about the way our programs need to change is a very clear one. These programs were six years old before they went through a final review by this government to try to improve those programs. In the meantime, over 40,000 units of affordable housing, which will remain affordable for 35 years and then be paid off and available at an affordable rate to people in Ontario, will be in existence.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Gigantes: The leader of the Conservative Party is suggesting that in fact—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): You waste the taxpayers' money and then get up and try to justify it. It's disgraceful.

The Speaker: Order, the member for York Mills.

Hon Ms Gigantes: —people are not getting housing when they have the deepest need. The rate of rent-geared-to-income in the projects coming into our non-profit sector in Ontario is 75%.

We already in this province are spending over \$2 billion a year in shelter allowances through our social assistance system. How much more money does he want to put in to not creating any new housing? We need affordable housing that will last.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Oriole.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): My question today is about gross mismanagement on an issue—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Just a moment.

Interjections.

ELEVATOR INSPECTIONS

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): My question today is one of government mismanagement and an issue of serious public safety concern, and I address it to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

The Provincial Auditor noted that your ministry spends \$4.5 million annually to ensure that the 35,000 elevators in Ontario are safe and that they meet the required ministry standards. We know, Minister, from the Provincial Auditor's report that your inspections are inadequate to ensure that your own safety standards are being complied with. Forty per cent of Ontario's elevators are overdue for inspection and, according to the Provincial Auditor and admissions from your own ministry, as many as 10,000 elevators in the province of Ontario may not meet those safety standards. Eighty per cent of the resources that you collect in licensing fees are actually going to fund those inspections.

1440

Minister, the lives of millions of Ontarians depend on the inspections that are carried out by your ministry, yet what we hear from the Provincial Auditor is that those funds are not being properly used. What I ask you today is, what do you say to the millions of people in the province of Ontario who pay licence fees for inspection and who pay tax dollars expecting that your ministry will ensure that the elevators are safe? What do you say to them when the Provincial Auditor tells us that those inspections are not taking place?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): The first thing I'd like to say to the member and anybody listening is that elevators in Ontario are safe, and I can say that categorically. There is no reason for the public to be alarmed. I want to put this issue in perspective a little bit, because the reality about elevators is that they're very sophisticated and they have a lot of built-in backup equipment that are safety features.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Ms Churley: In fact, the Ontario safety record relating to passenger elevators, as you know, is one of the safest and the best in North America. Fatalities over the last five years have been less than one, and these tragic accidents have been less than one, and they have not been due to mechanical failures. This is a very important issue, because it does alarm people when it's put in the perspective as the member for Oriole put it.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Churley: The reality—and this is quite important for people to listen to—is that 90% of elevating devices are checked once a month and inspected by the contractors who—

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Churley: —in fact are hired to do that. What the ministry essentially does is give backup support to that. The reality is that most of these elevators are checked once a month. I think what we're getting on to here are some serviceability issues that have been raised in this House before. In fact, the ministry is in the process of hiring nine new inspectors to help deal with that kind of problem.

Mrs Caplan: That answer is absolutely outrageous and is an insult to the people of this province. It also does not abide by the minister's own standards. The people of this province expect that elevators will be inspected every two years. They rely on that inspection for public safety. Your answer today in the House is little more than a wish and a prayer.

The Provincial Auditor today in his report was very, very clear: 10,000 elevators in this province may not meet the required safety standards. Now, that's according to the Provincial Auditor, and for you to stand in your place and not acknowledge what he has said is outrageous, Minister.

It is common knowledge that your ministry continues to raise licensing fees, and people expect that as a result of those licensing fees you will live up to your responsibility and ensure that the elevators are safe and inspected. Minister, there are people in this province who rely on your ministry to do that. The expectation is that it will happen every two years. What we know is that almost a third of the elevators are overdue for inspection.

The Speaker: Would the member place her supplementary, please.

Mrs Caplan: Most elevators are actually only inspected once every five or six years. Four thousand elevators installed in the last four years have never been inspected since the day they were first put into place.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mrs Caplan: I would ask you on behalf of the people of this province and the taxpayers, what are you doing with the money you collect from those licensing fees if you are not doing your job and using those resources to inspect the elevators and ensure public safety?

Hon Ms Churley: I'd ask the member to calm down here. The reality, as she said and as I have acknowledged, is that there are 10,000 elevators that have electronic components that have not been doublechecked by the branch. It doesn't mean they have been inspected along the way. On the issue of inspections for every two years—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Churley: —there was a time when this was done on a two-year cycle. Given the changes in technology of today and the number of elevators that need to be assessed, to meet such a need would not be the best use of our resources right now. In fact, what we are doing is inspecting on the assessment of need. Some elevators are being inspected every six months; some elevators are being inspected five to six years.

In this day and age, with so many devices and so many being built all the time in the building boom we had, we had to come up with a system that works. The reality is that we are inspecting the ones that most needed to be done first, and we are advancing that system and will make sure—

The Speaker: Would the minister conclude her response, please.

Hon Ms Churley: —that those inspections continue on that basis. As I said, we are hiring nine new inspectors and will bring the level of inspectors up to the level it was some time in the 1970s. And I will add that they really were reduced under the Liberal regime, and we are building it up again.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is to the Minister of Labour. Mr Minister, the Transitions program was established to assist older workers who are currently receiving unemployment insurance in accessing training programs in order to prepare them for today's changing workforce.

We know that in mid-October some 230,000 more Ontarians were on unemployment rolls than in September 1990, when your government took office.

Mr Minister, by word of your own ministry's correspondence, dated November 10, we're now telling people who are involved in training in Ontario that training proposals cannot begin until mid-March. But more importantly, people who are unemployed, on unemployment insurance right now, will have to wait till August before they can become part of the training programs in Ontario; older workers.

I would like to ask you what specific measures, since you're aware of this, you have taken to eliminate these excessive and depressing backlogs.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I want to make it clear that Transitions is not an income support program. It provides a \$5,000 credit for laid-off employees, 45 years of age, to retrain. This year we will assist more than 9,000 unemployed older workers into training.

I also want to make it clear that the program has been very successful and that we are in a sense, I admit, a victim of our own success. It is unfortunate that because of demand,

the time it takes to process applications has increased. We recognize that: To meet the demand, the government has tripled its financial commitment to the Transitions program to \$10 million in the last two years.

Mrs Cunningham: I would suggest that the older workers in Ontario right now who have been allowed to at least present their application forms to your ministry, who are told that they will have the opportunity to retrain—in your last budget you said that jobs were the most important issue for your government. I would suggest, Mr Minister, that this is inexcusable.

In fact, right now many of us in this House from all parties are receiving letters and meeting with individuals who are on this waiting list, and that's the only hope they've got.

As a matter of fact, one of the letters brought to my attention this week caused me to raise this question today. This letter is from a gentleman who knew someone who was told that he could be in this Transitions training program. His unemployment insurance had just disappeared; it vanished. Then he was phoned about a month later and told he couldn't be there. This gentleman's friend actually has taken his own life.

Today I thought it was important that if the government is going to stand up in this House and talk about a program that is so successful that it's the victim of its own success, it ought to take a look at the real message it's giving to Ontarians. If they don't have a program that works, they shouldn't get people's hopes up and have them sit back waiting for something that won't happen.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place her supplementary, please.

Mrs Cunningham: Mr Minister, given this advice that you've received today—and I know you've heard about this before—what are you going to do about these long waiting periods? Are you going to tell the public of Ontario that this program no longer is working and in fact it won't exist, and you'll consider it in the next budget perhaps a year from now? Tell the truth.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I would hope the member would not be suggesting that we dump a program that has been successful. I want to say that the government has tripled its financial commitment to the Transitions program to \$10 million in each of the last two years. We have also recently doubled the staff in the Transitions program who are trying to deal with this problem. There is not an unlimited amount of money out there and we're doing what we can to meet this. But this is one of the programs not affected in terms of cutbacks, where we have been trying to meet the increased demand.

1450

RENT REGULATION

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): My question is for the Minister of Housing. Last Thursday, I saw a full-page advertisement in the Toronto Star, paid for by the city of Toronto, which warned tenants of the increases they can expect if Metro's proposed market value assessment comes into being. It said things like tenants will receive

rent hikes when there weren't supposed to be any, and that there will be no rent decreases when many were promised.

Tenants in my riding of York East have been calling, very concerned about what this means to them. Can you tell us what Metro tenants can expect if MVA becomes a reality?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I saw the same ad and was concerned also. The Rent Control Act, which became effective in August, does offer protection for tenants. A landlord, for example, in a situation where the taxes have increased, may apply for an increase in the rents above guideline, but only if there has been what is defined in the act as an extraordinary increase, which means that the rate of increase would have to be more than 50% higher than the rate of increase that is included within the three-year rolling average within the guideline. Effectively, that means, for example, that at today's rates it would be an increase of over 12%.

I would draw to the member's attention that in the case of an increase there will be a cap, as with all the other increases above guideline, of 3%, so no tenant will see an increase over 3%. In the case of most tenants, an increase of 5% in the tax rate, for example, might justify something like a 1% increase over guideline in the rent.

Mr Malkowski: What about tenants who live in buildings where landlords receive tax decreases? Will tenants benefit from that change?

Hon Ms Gigantes: Again, the Rent Control Act prepared for this eventuality. There can be an automatic pass-through of rent decreases to tenants if there is an agreement worked out with the municipality, in this case the Metro Toronto region. Currently, the Ministry of Housing staff who are involved with this element of the Rent Control Act are working with the Metro representatives to see how this might be worked out in the Metro area.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): In the absence of the Premier and the Attorney General, I will have to ask my question today of my friend the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I have Bill 105 in my hand, and I'm reading from section 53 of the farm organizations legislation. Section 53 of the minister's recently introduced legislation states that Ontario farmers will be guilty of an offence if they do not file an annual farm operations statement and/or if they do not pay the annual farm organization fee, and that they will therefore be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to \$2,000.

Minister, is the Rae government serious about this provision? Do you honestly and really intend to fine Ontario farmers up to \$2,000 if they do not file the annual farm operations statement or if they do not pay their annual farm organization fee?

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I'd actually like to thank the member for the question. It will allow me an opportunity to clear the air on this issue.

This bill was introduced over a period of two years, with maximum consultation with farmers and farm groups

across the province. Throughout those consultations, the decision was made that this would be a mandatory registration fee. Staff were instructed that this was going to be a mandatory system. The penalty for not registering would be that they wouldn't be able to participate and receive funds from the provincial government if they didn't register.

It's unfortunate that I did not follow up, and I believe I would accept fault for that: not looking at what "mandatory" meant legally. To legal counsel it meant that there had to be a penalty if you did not register. That was not my intent and that was not the intent of the farm organizations. I did consult with his colleagues and with the other opposition party on introducing this, and I have promised that any threat of fine will be removed before it's passed in this House.

Mr Conway: I just want the House to be clear. I have in my hand a government bill introduced last Thursday by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and it's very plain. It indicates in section 53 that it is the stated policy of the Rae government, in respect of this very sensitive legislation—I will quote again if I have to, but it couldn't be clearer that the policy which the minister is advancing in Bill 105 intends and clearly states that farmers who do not file an annual farm operation statement or who do not pay the annual fee will be eligible for a fine of up to \$2,000.

Now I'm told by the sponsor of this bill, the ink of which is hardly dry, it having been introduced here last Thursday afternoon, that I should not believe what is before me. People say this government is incompetent, that they are the Clampetts. Well, I'm telling you: more evidence.

Minister, if I am not to believe what is in your bill, let me ask this question: How did section 53 get into this bill which you introduced last Thursday and, specifically, what do you have to say to the scores of farmers who are phoning my office today in a perfect outrage about this particular part of this very interesting bill?

Hon Mr Buchanan: I think I made it clear in my response to his first question that financial fines or penalties will be removed from the bill. The member should take note of the fact that this is not the first piece of legislation that has been introduced to this House that required amendment. I recall previously many pieces of legislation that required amendments, and clearly this is an amendment that will be made. I made that commitment immediately upon introducing this legislation.

I already explained that legal counsel, when "mandatory" was mentioned, thought there had to be a penalty. It was my intent and the intent of farm leaders that there would not be any kind of financial fine or penalty. The penalty would simply be that there would be no access to government funds. That is the penalty, and I would be glad to have an amendment from the honourable member to take that section out of the bill.

WCB PREMIUMS

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Minister of Labour. Minister, it appears that this government is doing everything possible to threaten job training. The Workers' Compensation Board has recently

indicated that it will be introducing a policy which will require employers to pay WCB premiums for community college students who are obtaining on-the-job experience through work placements. This will create a very serious problem, particularly for students in the health care sector, such as nursing, emergency care and medical technology, that require hands-on experience to graduate.

The hospitals are concerned that they're going to have to use scarce health care dollars to pay for these new WCB costs. The Kitchener-Waterloo regional ambulance service has indicated that it can no longer afford to pay these premiums and that it will have to refuse to take any more students. This means that the students will not be able to obtain the hands-on experience needed to graduate.

Minister, this is a very serious problem for students in this province. I'd like to know what you intend to do to resolve this matter.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I want to tell the honourable member across the way that I will get back to her with an answer on that within the next day or so.

Mrs Witmer: Minister, that's a totally unsatisfactory answer. This issue has been boiling for a month now. The community colleges, the students in the colleges, are very concerned. They want you to step in. They want you to assure the students that they're going to be able to obtain the hands-on experience they need to graduate. They want an answer now. They don't want an answer tomorrow. Minister, when will you come back to this House with an assurance that employers and students will not be penalized and these costs given to the employer?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: As I indicated, I will come back to the House tomorrow with an answer, not necessarily with what the member wants, but with an answer to the question.

1500

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Madam Minister, your ministry is cooperating with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in drafting legislation that will give municipalities the powers they will need to implement effective waste reduction and management practices in their municipalities. As you know, the proposals are set out in a discussion paper called Municipal Waste Management Powers in Ontario, released by Municipal Affairs in the spring.

The municipalities of my riding all face problems of one kind or another involving waste management. I know they would benefit from legislation that would strengthen their power in dealing with waste. Minister, they are anxious to have this power. What has become of the discussion paper and when can my constituents expect to see some legislation address this issue?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): There has been great interest all around the province from municipalities and environmentalists in the paper that we released earlier this year with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. I'm delighted to be able to tell the member that we

are in the process of reviewing the comments and the responses that have come back and that I hope to be in a position to announce the elements of the legislation very shortly.

Mr Gary Wilson: Madam Minister, as you know, Kingston is a separated city and as such does not fit into a county structure, nor is it part of any regional municipality. Because of its size, there is no room within its borders for a landfill. This means it must seek the cooperation of neighbouring municipalities in finding a suitable landfill. What will this new legislation referred to in your first answer mean for separated cities like Kingston?

Hon Mrs Grier: The purpose of the legislation is to clarify which level of government does in fact have the responsibility for waste management, the regional county or the area municipalities, and in the case of separated cities, as the member has pointed out, they don't quite fit into either category. But the intent of the legislation is to ensure cooperative waste management planning between municipalities to avoid the kind of conflict that has prevented us from coming to a conclusion on waste management master planning in the past.

I can say to the member that it is certainly my intention that this legislation will facilitate separated municipalities such as Kingston in implementing coordinated waste management master plans.

PETITIONS

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Premier Rae, the Premier of the province of Ontario, has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time that a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate the bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rules changes imposed on the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

I affix my signature hereto.

GAMBLING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a 'quick-fix' solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I support this petition and I have signed it.

PINE GROVE FOREST

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): I have a petition for the preservation of Pine Grove Forest.

"Whereas the Pine Grove Forest is a significant wetland forest complex, a portion of which is designated an area of natural and scientific interest on the east bank of the Rouge Valley, a part of the Petticoat Creek watershed in Pickering; and

"Whereas the Pine Grove Forest is an essential gateway to the Rouge-Duffin corridor, thereby providing a crucial link to the Altona Forest, Petticoat Creek and Duffin Creek as well as the Lake Ontario waterfront and north to the Oak Ridges moraine; and

"Whereas the Rouge Park advisory committee has recommended to the province of Ontario to include all of the Pine Grove Forest within the future Rouge Park,

"We, the undersigned, urge the Premier of Ontario and the ministers of Natural Resources, the Environment and Municipal Affairs to protect the Pine Grove Forest by ensuring that the province includes this significant area in the national-provincial Rouge Park. We strongly oppose any urbanization of this natural area."

I affix my signature.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): I also have a petition which I would like to read from the riding of Quinte regarding the amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act for proposed wide-open Sunday shopping and the elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday. It reads:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of 'legal holiday' in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need of keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric

of the society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendment included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I've signed this and I would like to present this to the Legislature.

CONSENT TO TREATMENT

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): In recognition of AIDS Awareness Day, I have a petition from about 250 young people from the community of Burlington. It's a petition to the Legislative Assembly:

"Whereas the Consent to Treatment Act, known as Bill 109, is presently awaiting third and final reading before the provincial Legislature;

"We, the undersigned, believe this bill prevents doctors and other health care professionals providing treatment unless consent is received from a capable person. Persons under the age of 16 years are presumed not to be capable and will require the consent of parent or guardian. We believe treatment such as AIDS testing is a private matter between physician and patient regardless of their age. Protection of privacy will encourage young people to seek help and early testing can aid in slowing the spread of this disease."

This has the signature of my support and some 250 to 300 signatures from young people from the community of Burlington.

LANDFILL

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here:

"Whereas the town of Georgina has traditionally been a mixture of agricultural, residential and recreational holiday land, both areas would be drastically affected by a megadump; and

"Whereas the Interim Waste Authority has identified sites in the town that would consume large tracts of number 1 and 2 farm land, the areas identified by the Interim Waste Authority would disrupt the vibrant agricultural communities. The farm families in those areas have continued to invest large sums of money in their farms. These communities would be destroyed by the Interim Waste Authority's putting in a megadump;

"Whereas most of the people of Georgina depend on groundwater for their drinking water and a dump would threaten their clean supply of water;

"Whereas the effects of a megadump would destroy the local economies of the communities;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"We oppose the Interim Waste Authority's proposal to take prime farm land and turn it into Metro and York's megadump.

"We further petition the Legislative Assembly to renew its efforts to seek and entertain alternatives to landfill and implement progressive reduction, reuse and recycling programs."

I affix my name to this.

1510

CONSENT TO TREATMENT

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will be reviewing Bill 109, consent to treatment legislation, in committee of the whole on Thursday, December 3, 1992; and

"Whereas this legislation has undergone some 200 amendments from its introduction; and

"Whereas the presumed age of consent of 16 years was removed from the legislation through these amendments; and

"Whereas the removal of the age of consent interferes with the necessary role of parents in Ontario to support the medical, dental and mental health needs of children in Ontario;

"We, the executive directors of children's aid societies in the province of Ontario, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"(1) To make the families of Ontario aware of this legislation;

"(2) To reinstate the age of 16 as the age of consent."

I have signed this petition.

GAMBLING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas it is against United Church of Canada policy to indulge in any type of gambling

"— Gambling casinos bring crime to a community

"— Not everyone has the self-control to limit their betting

"— Low-income people will suffer from unwise use of their resources

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Be it resolved that the Toronto Conference of United Church Women do strongly object to the Ontario government's proposed legislation to promote offtrack betting, sports lotteries and gambling casinos."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I've got a petition here to the members of the provincial Parliament.

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday business.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act, Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of a 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

It's been signed by a lot of people from the Uxbridge area and Woodstock, but the majority of them coming from the Uxbridge area—Greenbank, Port Perry. I affix my signature to this.

POST-POLIO SYNDROME

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by a number of people from the Ottawa area.

"Whereas post-polio is a new phenomenon to attack survivors of polio; and

"Whereas the Ottawa and District Post-Polio Association has been formed to help survivors of polio; and

"Whereas most family practitioners do not have the specialized knowledge to treat post-polio symptoms effectively; and

"Whereas we, the members and friends of the Ottawa and District Post-Polio Association, wish to emphasize to the Ontario government the need to fund a post-polio clinic in Ottawa; and

"Whereas a formal request was presented by the Ottawa and District Post-Polio Association to the Ottawa-Carleton Regional District Health Council in May 1988 and received a top priority at that time; and

"Whereas the Rehabilitation Centre of Ottawa-Carleton has presented a proposal to the Ministry of Health for funds to establish a post-polio clinic; and

"Whereas there are at least 1,000 known polio survivors in the catchment area of the rehabilitation centre who need the immediate services of a clinic; and

"Whereas there are at least 5,000 polio survivors in Ontario; and

"Whereas there is only one formally constituted post-polio clinic, which is in Toronto and which has a lengthy waiting list; and

"Whereas the cost and difficulties of several trips to the Toronto clinic and staying overnight each time are often insurmountable for a disabled person; and

"Whereas polio survivors who had no paralysis from the initial attack of polio are not immune from developing post-polio symptoms of varying severity; and

"Whereas research indicates that 80% of polio survivors may develop post-polio symptoms anywhere from seven to 71 years after the initial attack; and

"Whereas post-polio symptoms are not related to the aging process; and

"Whereas, because of immigration, the post-polio population will not diminish;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to establish a post-polio clinic in the Rehabilitation Centre of Ottawa-Carleton for the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients and to disseminate information so that the estimated 1,000 known polio survivors in the centre's catchment area can receive adequate treatment and that the medical profession be educated regarding the post-polio syndrome."

I agree with the petition and have affixed my signature.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto, and whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded, not only fully, but with equity and equality."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): I have a petition addressed to members of the provincial Parliament regarding amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition to wide-open Sunday shopping.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of the society in Ontario and will cause increased hardship on retailers, retail employees and their families.

"The proposed amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all holidays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of 'legal holiday' and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

This is signed by a number of people right across Ontario and I affix my signature to it.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto, and whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of its elementary

school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded, not only fully, but with equity and equality."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I acknowledge the patience of the member for York Mills, but alas, the time allotted for the presentation of petitions has expired.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Mr Jackson from the standing committee on estimates presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Pursuant to standing order 60(a), the following estimates (1992-93) are reported back to the House as they were not previously selected by the committee for consideration and are deemed to be received and concurred in:

Office of the assembly program, \$87,563,600
Office of the chief election officer program, \$668,700
Ombudsman Ontario program, \$7,231,500
Office of the Provincial Auditor program, \$6,225,800.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Pursuant to standing order 60(b), the estimates not selected for consideration by the standing committee are deemed to be concurred in.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

DUCLOS POINT PROPERTY OWNERS INC. ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr O'Connor, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr79, An Act to revive Duclos Point Property Owners Inc.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Marchese, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr78, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

ONTARIO BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Martin, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr40, An Act respecting the Ontario Building Officials Association.

CANADIAN MILLERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY ACT, 1992

On motion by Mrs Witmer, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr75, An Act respecting The Canadian Millers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

METROPOLITAN TORONTO REASSESSMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES NOUVELLES ÉVALUATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE TORONTO

Deferred vote on the motion for second reading of Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto / Loi modifiant certaines lois afin de mettre en oeuvre le programme provisoire de nouvelles évaluations de la communauté urbaine de Toronto à partir de chaque catégorie de biens, de permettre à toutes les municipalités de prévoir que les locataires profitent des réductions d'impôt occasionnées par les nouvelles évaluations et d'apporter des modifications corrélatives reliées au financement dans la municipalité de la communauté urbaine de Toronto.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): We have a deferred vote on Bill 94, deferred from yesterday. There will be a five-minute bell. Please call in the members.

The division bells rang from 1523 to 1528.

The Speaker: Would all members please take their seats. I'd ask all members to please take their seats.

All those in favour of Mr Cooke's motion should please rise one by one.

Ayes

Abel, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Caplan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Cordiano, Curling, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Eves, Fletcher, Frankford, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Jordan, Klopp, Lankin, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdoch (Grey), Murdoch (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Runciman, Silipo, Sterling, Stockwell, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Villeneuve, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The Speaker: All those opposed to Mr Cooke's motion should please rise one by one.

Nays

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Carr, Conway, Cousens, Cunningham, Eddy, Elston, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Harnick, Jackson, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, McClelland, McLean, Miclash, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Ruprecht, Sola, Tilson, Turnbull, Witmer.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 71, the nays 30.

The Speaker: The ayes being 71 and the nays 30, I declare the motion carried.

Shall the bill be ordered for social development committee? Agreed.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I'd like to request unanimous consent to move a motion dealing with the bill we just approved for second reading.

The Speaker: Unanimous consent to revert to motions? Agreed.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I move that notwithstanding any standing order or previous order of the House, the standing committee on social development be authorized to meet on any day of the week at any time until 10 pm, according to a schedule agreed to by the committee to consider Bill 94, An Act to amend certain Acts to implement the interim reassessment plan of Metropolitan Toronto on a property class by property class basis and to permit all municipalities to provide for the pass through to tenants of tax decreases resulting from reassessment and to make incidental amendments related to financing in The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Mr Cooke moves—

Hon Mr Cooke: Dispense.

The Speaker: Dispense? Agreed.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Mr Speaker, I'd like to speak to the motion. I won't be long, and it's obvious the motion is going to carry. I just hope, because there's a great interest in the House about efficiency and regularity, that everybody understands what the passage of this motion is likely going to mean: that we're going to sit Saturday, I gather, and Sunday. We're going to sit Sunday, I want to say to my common-pause-day friends on all sides of the House. For the first time in my memory here, a committee of this Legislature is—

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): So?

Mr Conway: Well, I just think we should not pass this kind of motion on the nod, without there being some understanding of what is being done. I understand, as a member of this Legislature, the pressure of time, and, believe me, I understand the exigencies of this particular issue. But we are apparently going to endorse unanimously a motion that is going to see this Legislature sit on Saturday and on Sunday. I believe, if I'm correct, that we're going to sit as late as 10 o'clock on Sunday of this week. I may stand corrected in that respect.

But it is, I think, useful for people to understand how this place is now operating. I certainly won't be here on Saturday and Sunday, though I expect other very hardworking members are going to be here. But my friend the member for St Catharines has been pointing out that when we come back as late as we do under the new arrangement—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: My friend opposite says it has nothing to do with this. Maybe it doesn't. I'm just observing that I'm being asked this afternoon, for the first time in my 17½ years, to endorse a motion that's going to bring honourable members to this place on Saturday and on Sunday. I say, particularly for my friends in the new democracy, that they were the ones, in the main, who made passionate speeches about the need for a common pause day.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I'm telling the member for Victoria-Haliburton—

The Speaker: Order. The member for St Catharines, come to order.

Mr Conway: I don't know whether our friends opposite are going to want to engage this debate, but let me just say for the record that when you come back as late as we did under the new calendar; when you take a week out of the fall sitting, as I believe we should, for Remembrance Day and the week around that—

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Two weeks late in April.

Mr Conway: And when, as the member for Mississauga South observed, we come back now as late as we do in the spring.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): And we leave a week early in December.

Mr Conway: And we leave a week early in December, because the plan is to be out of here on December 10, the earliest predicted adjournment in memory, is it any wonder, in the face of the kind of legislation we've got? I understand the pressure the government is under, not just with market value assessment but with the farm legislation, with the long-term care initiatives, with supply, with a variety of other issues that I'm told we must have at least—

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): In closing—

Mr Conway: Pardon me?

Is it any wonder, when we allow for about—what would it be, Ernie?—seven weeks, eight weeks of fall sitting that we're now reduced to coming back on Sunday to hear from the scores of people who I know are anxious to address this particular legislation?

I'm simply observing that we continue to set precedents in this place. It will be a precedent-setting day, I believe, when this Sunday people are gathered together—and the staff. I mean, normally what one does here is beat one's breast about the inconvenience this will occasion for the men and women who serve us at the table and in committee; good people, I say to the Clerk and his staff.

Let there be no mistake about what this innocuous little motion is about and let all members reflect upon where we now find ourselves in respect of House business. While I'm making parish visits on Sunday in the great constituency of Renfrew county in the Ottawa Valley, I will not forget that for the first time—is it the first time ever? I bet you I'm right in saying that it's the first time ever that this assembly will have actually had a proceeding on a Sunday. I know some of the bell ringing and some of the other

obstructions we've had have kept a skeleton staff here on a Sunday.

Hon Mr Pouliot: We're just trying to accommodate the Liberals. Come on, get your act straight, Sean.

The Speaker: Order, the Minister of Transportation.

Mr Conway: And we now have the spectacle of the minister of highways—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: No, you don't have to pull the motion at all, I say to my friends opposite. I don't care whether there was—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You were the guys that asked for this.

The Speaker: Order.

1540

Mr Conway: Listen, I'm just making the point, and as a private member I think I have the right to observe. I'm asking, is there a precedent? I don't think we've ever sat on a Sunday before, and I suspect that's where we are now in this place. I expect with some of the requests we're going to have, we'll probably be sitting here more frequently on Saturday and Sunday to accommodate a very, very short parliamentary calendar. That's my real point.

When you come back as late in the spring and come back as late in the fall and plan to adjourn on the 10th of December, it is almost predictable that you're going to face these kinds of pressures. I resent the suggestion that it's somehow the opposition's fault because we have to accommodate men and women who want to come to participate in the public hearings process for this or any other legislation.

I say to my friends opposite: Let the motion pass. I will congratulate those people, those members who will be here on Saturday and Sunday to do the good work that has to be done, but I simply rise today to observe what we're doing. We are going to be here on this weekend and on Sunday, I believe, in part because we've winnowed down the number of sitting days to such a relatively small number that these kinds of pressures are going to build, and not for the first time will we be debating motions to bring us back on a Sunday.

The Speaker: Further debate? Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Cooke's motion pass? Agreed.

ONTARIO TRAINING AND
ADJUSTMENT BOARD ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONSEIL ONTARIEN
DE FORMATION ET D'ADAPTATION
DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE

Mr Allen moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 96, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board / Loi créant le Conseil ontarien de formation et d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the minister have any opening remarks?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): I'd like to indulge in a few remarks as we engage in what I

think is an historic debate, and I look forward to the thoughtful and carefully considered analysis and debate that I'm sure honourable members will undertake in examining this bill.

Je suis convaincu que les députés feront une analyse approfondie de ce projet de loi et qu'ils en discuteront attentivement.

Around the world we see the indications that the economic maxims on which we have relied are in real danger of being overtaken by the strategies of other economies where the utility of innovation and cooperation is better understood and, moreover, where the concepts are converted into real competitive advantages.

But challenges exist on a variety of fronts. We see our economy challenged by the cheap labour costs and the abundant and inexpensive natural resources of many newly industrialized countries. We see the elimination or reduction of trade barriers that exposes our traditional markets and traditional trading patterns to tougher competition from more and more economic players.

In the face of this competition, we can either learn to work smarter or jeopardize our social wellbeing and economic prosperity. Surely the easiest part of our task is to recognize the need for change.

I challenge any member of this House to find a matter of social and economic policy around which there is greater consensus than in the area of labour market development. Where is the employer who doubts the value of being able to avail himself or herself of a vast pool of highly skilled workers? Which industry does not need the competitive advantages that well-trained staff have to offer? Is there a worker or potential worker in Ontario who would decline the opportunity of greater employability, greater job security, better wages and a more rewarding and meaningful vocation that having the right skills can provide?

We have a responsibility to do what we can to help make Ontario competitive by implementing a sound industrial policy framework. One key part of that is closing the skills gap that we face so that the workforce of Ontario will be a beacon to investment in high value added activities.

We must not overlook the advantages that we already have here in Ontario: first-rate infrastructure; first-rate health care; quite a number of mature and successful industries in high value added sectors; an excellent public education system; and a standard of living that we all know makes this province one of the best places in the world to live and work and do business.

Robert Reich of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government has observed:

"There are only two ways in which a government can attract global capital to its country. One way is saying: 'Come here because it is so cheap to do business here—low wages, low taxes, low regulations; you can pollute as much as you want.' That is the low-cost-of-business route....

"The other way of attracting global capital and global corporations to Canada or to the United States is saying: 'Come here because we have a first-class workforce and a first-class infrastructure, and our human capital and

infrastructure, combined with your knowhow and financial capital, will generate human returns.’’

Here at home, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association advises: "The skills of our people are our single most important competitive advantage. We must make an aggressive commitment to building an educational and training infrastructure equal to the best in the world."

We will do this by means of coordinated, cooperative action, because we understand that our collective wellbeing requires that we take a collective approach to finding solutions. There must be a partnership between governments and all our labour market partners.

Une étude minutieuse du projet de loi que j'ai présenté permettra de constater ce que je viens d'expliquer. Ce projet de loi a été préparé en étroite collaboration avec les personnes représentant les partenaires du marché du travail de notre province. Le processus de recherche et de consultation qui a précédé l'étape que nous franchissons aujourd'hui a permis d'inclure les diverses perspectives du patronat, des travailleuses et travailleurs, des groupes représentant les femmes, les minorités raciales, les personnes handicapées, les francophones, des diverses personnes et divers organismes de l'Ontario, du gouvernement fédéral, des administrations municipales et de l'ensemble du secteur de la formation et de l'éducation.

I would draw members' attention to the purposes of the act, which are as follows: first of all, to enable all the partners to play a significant role in the design and delivery of labour force development programs and services. We are convinced of the need for this, because these are the people who know best what is needed, so that it is a consumer-driven system based on the needs of the economy, employers and workers.

The second purpose of the act is to give employers, workers and potential workers access to publicly funded labour force development programs and the services that will lead to the enhancement of skill levels, productivity, quality, innovation and timeliness, and to the improvement of the lives of workers and potential workers.

This is the marriage of an employer's need for skilled labour with a worker's or potential worker's need for the skills that are in the greatest demand. This stems from the simple reality that good training has positive impacts on both employers' ability to compete and on workers' lives.

The act's third purpose is to recognize the principles of access and equity in labour force development. This is a laudable social objective, but is equally an economic objective, with direct bearing on the question of making our economy efficient. How could it possibly be economically prudent to overlook the contributions that can be made by all our people: by women, by racial minorities, by people with disabilities and francophones?

Well, of course, it is neither possible nor prudent to do so, and yet we see in our current range of programs and services systemic and attitudinal barriers that are hampering our ability to make the best use of Ontario's human resources.

The fourth and final purpose of the act is to ensure that labour force development programs and services are designed and delivered within a framework that is consistent

with the economic and social policies, including the labour market policies, of the government of Ontario, and also to ensure that this framework promotes Ontario's linguistic duality and recognizes and supports the diversity and the pluralism of Ontario's population.

As I have suggested, our purpose here is to ensure that OTAB operates within an economic and social policy framework established by government.

1550

One of OTAB's greatest advantages is that it will lead to more effective and efficient use of our existing provincial training and adjustment resources. Currently, programs and services are spread over several ministries across the government with the result that our province is ill served by a largely uncoordinated and inefficient system of delivery.

By bringing many of these programs together under OTAB, we will have a single agency with a clear mandate to undertake this coordination and develop new ideas where necessary. This will mean improvements in services, not huge increases in budget but by better usage of existing moneys and staffs. OTAB will result in a leaner and more efficient system than we have today through the minimization of overlaps and duplication.

Our new training and adjustment system must be built not only on the continuing collaboration and consensus of the labour market partners but on appropriate and sustainable levels of investment. The facts suggest we can do much better in this area. Statistics from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development indicate that Canada's investment in labour force development has been "at best modest and at worst anaemic." In terms of active labour market measures, Canada ranked 14th out of 24 OECD countries, as measured by that organization.

Canadian private sector training investment amounted to less than one quarter of 1% of the gross domestic product of this country. American companies spent twice as much on training, and German firms channelled four times as much money towards in-company training programs. The same statistics suggest that by the year 2000, our workers will need much more than basic literacy and numeracy skills. Two thirds of the jobs that will be created will require more than 12 years of education. The facts are clear. Employers need better trained employees and they need to participate more in this training.

The rapid change that is under way means that every employee's skills are becoming outdated. It has been estimated that even the individual who stays with one organization will have to learn five different jobs in the course of his or her career, and that each of us will have to undergo total retraining at least three times in our working lives. In the new workplace, continuous learning will be part of the job. Clearly, we are not spending the training dollars needed to keep pace with our competitors in the global marketplace. The bottom line is that we must invest more in our human resources.

Notre gouvernement donne l'exemple. Cette année, nous avons augmenté les fonds consacrés à la formation professionnelle : le financement des programmes de formation et d'adaptation est passé de 751 millions de dollars

l'année dernière à 940 millions de dollars cette année. En octobre, le ministère de la Formation professionnelle a consacré des fonds supplémentaires de 13,6 millions de dollars dans le but de revitaliser et d'étendre les programmes d'apprentissage.

Nous avons pris des décisions malgré les pressions fiscales énormes qui existent présentement. Néanmoins, nous sommes convaincus que la mise en valeur de la main-d'oeuvre est la seule voie prudente à suivre.

But a highly skilled workforce cannot result from the government's efforts alone. Everyone has an important contribution to make, and that is why a critical objective of OTAB is to promote and secure appropriate and sustainable investment in labour force development from the public and private sectors.

But more money alone is not the answer, and we cannot merely train for the sake of training. We have to create mechanisms for ensuring that we get a better return on our dollar. So that we may determine what skills and occupations are high priorities for labour force development, we will need to collect comprehensive and detailed information about the labour market. We will also need to link this information with the province's broad economic priorities. OTAB will help collect this information and will provide this link.

While providing OTAB and its governing body with enough authority to undertake fundamental reforms in the labour force development system, the government is taking very definite steps to ensure that the agency remains accountable to the people of Ontario. I will outline the accountability mechanisms that are provided for in this legislation, as I know they are of great interest and of great importance.

OTAB will operate within the parameters of the economic and social policies of the government and within the government's accountability framework. They will have no blank cheque; there will be no carte blanche. OTAB legislation sets out specific reporting and auditing requirements for the agency. For instance, OTAB will be obliged to provide multi-year corporate plans and annual operational plans for the government's approval. They will also be required to present written spending estimates every year. There will be a designated cabinet minister responsible for OTAB, who will have the authority to issue directives to the governing body and to request a report at any time on any aspect of OTAB's mandate, powers or duties.

In addition to the requirements set out in the legislation, OTAB will be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the government. This memorandum of understanding will outline very specifically the policy objectives of the government, what the minister responsible for OTAB will provide to and expect from the agency, and in turn what OTAB expects from and must provide to the government. This agreement will clearly define the roles of the minister, the governing body co-chairs, OTAB's chief executive officer; the operating, administrative, financial, control and reporting relationships; the government's requirements for staffing, audit and conflict of interest.

To ensure effective and efficient use of public funds, OTAB will furthermore be subject to review by the Pro-

vincial Auditor and other audits as required by the minister. As a crown agency, OTAB must comply with all the relevant Management Board, treasury board, Human Resources Secretariat directives, with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and with the French Language Services Act.

OTAB's legislation specifies that those who will lead OTAB have a primary responsibility to serve the public interest. Although governing members can seek information and guidance from their supporting reference groups, composed of representatives of their various labour market partners, they have the responsibility to make decisions that will serve the public good of Ontario. OTAB will be an agency of the government, and although it will give labour market partners the necessary authority and responsibility, its staff will be civil servants, not private sector employees.

Government will develop the policy framework within which OTAB will operate and will examine the various reports from OTAB as called for in the act. The government will also retain its responsibilities for federal-provincial relations and any agreements, such as the Canada-Ontario Labour Force Development Agreement.

When this act was introduced into the Legislature, the honourable member for Scarborough-Agincourt urged everyone in the House to take a very close look at the part of the bill dealing with accountability. That is excellent advice, and I am confident that such an inspection will allay any fears members may have about the government having "virtually no control" over OTAB, as the honourable member phrased it.

I would like to take a moment to address concerns expressed by some members about the consultation process for this initiative, because the consultation was indeed truly extensive. In September 1991, I formed an OTAB external consultative committee, composed of leaders from business, labour and community groups. This committee suggested to me that if OTAB was to be a different kind of approach to the labour force development issue, we would need a different kind of approach to the OTAB consultation.

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In November 1991 we distributed more than 40,000 copies of the OTAB discussion paper. I travelled to a number of communities across Ontario to personally receive direct input on the OTAB proposal. We then started up steering committees in January of this year: steering committees for business, labour, women, racial minorities, people with disabilities, francophones and educators and trainers.

We invited these committees to help us refine the OTAB model, which they did. These committees met repeatedly with government, with each other and with the broader labour market partners they represent. The staff of the OTAB project took part in literally hundreds of community discussions organized by interested organizations across Ontario.

In addition to the OTAB consultation process, there was a separate consultation process, you will remember, Mr Speaker, that took place this past spring, dealing with

the proposed network of local boards, and in that context I would have to say the issues of OTAB were discussed again in that setting. This involved 55 meetings in 23 locations across Ontario. There were 925 verbal presentations at these meetings, with over 3,000 other people attending as well. Over 900 written briefs were received.

While we did limit the length of verbal presentations at these hearings so that everyone would have an opportunity to speak, we did that so there would be more time for group discussions at the end of these meetings. All who attended these meetings found that the group discussions were particularly helpful in clarifying issues.

The local board initiative is progressing in cooperation with Employment and Immigration Canada and the Canadian Labour Force Development Board. OTAB's governing body will take part in that further initiative as well, as it is organized.

With respect to the OTAB consultation process, let me give some examples of how we have listened to the concerns expressed by the labour market partners and refined the OTAB proposal. We have added a seat on the governing body for francophone representation, as well as a non-voting seat for municipal representation to match the non-voting provincial and federal seats.

We reworked and refined the mandate of OTAB in order to reflect the partners' objectives, and that is evident in this legislation. We spelled out the role of reference groups more clearly at the behest of the labour market partners and we developed principles in consultation with the partners for the drafting of the legislation before the actual drafting commenced.

So I can tell the members of this House that we have listened very carefully to labour market partners and have responded to their suggestions, and I know they will attest to that. As a result, I can say with great confidence and satisfaction that this act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is a responsive and important document that will greatly assist our collective effort to develop and maintain a top quality workforce in Ontario.

I want finally to say that I will not be responding piecemeal as we go through the debate, which I look forward to very much. I will be gathering all the comments and responding to them globally at the end. Of course, in the intervening period of time, as we proceed through the debate, various members of our caucus as well as members of the opposition parties will rise to make their points with respect to this issue, and I look forward very much to hearing the contributions of all honourable members.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Before we proceed to further debate, I would like the Legislature to acknowledge and receive one of the reeves from Glengarry county, the reeve of Kenyon township, Wilfred Vallance, in the west gallery.

Further debate, the honourable member for Timiskaming.

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I appreciate the minister's opening remarks. I've long awaited this moment so that we can debate in a little more detail than we get in the thrust and fro of question period an initiative that's very, very important and a subject area that I'm sure not

only all the members of this House but certainly by now the people of Ontario truly understand the importance of.

I think I'd like to start today by laying out the ground, if you will, if you pardon the farm talk, because I think it's important to understand how we got here and why we need to be going where we are in the future and how we do that. Really, it starts with the Ontario economy and why it's so strong and why we've been so lucky to have such a strong economy here in Ontario.

Quite frankly, Ontario has been and continues to be blessed with a wonderful abundance of resources and a wonderful geographic location for those resources that have enabled us to develop a tremendous economy in the last century and up till now. But as all the members of the House understand and realize today, Ontario no longer appears to be the engine of the Canadian economy.

We developed our economy primarily because we were blessed with such natural resources. To put it in a very simplistic way, all we basically had to do in Ontario was literally scratch the ground for our living over the last 100 years. We have wonderful forests in northern Ontario, an area I'm privileged to live in, and we have made a tremendous living from the forests of northern Ontario. I would certainly hope that this government would not cut down on the reforestation that it's been doing, so that we can continue that. The forests of Ontario and this country have provided a very big engine of growth for this country.

Similarly with the geological formations in this country: The minerals that Ontario and Canada have been blessed with also have provided our economy a very strong base. We have been able to mine not only the precious metals such as gold and silver over the years but industrial metals such as nickel, which is required obviously as an alloy in the making of high technological steels that are needed in the aerospace industry. We've been very lucky for that, but basically we didn't really have to do much and we really didn't have to know too much to do that work.

After the Second World War, because of the tariff situation in the world, because of our geographic location, we were very lucky to inherit a branch plant economy, an economy that we had no control of, an economy that really just fell upon us because of our geographic location and tariff regulations. Now, with the era of free trade, we find ourselves in a position where countries from around the world have free and easy access for their goods into Ontario. We no longer have that barrier of tariffs to protect our jobs.

The nature of work is changing in Ontario. It has come on us very suddenly. As a supporter of free trade, I felt that free trade had to come on in a gradual way and had to have the programs for transition that supported the people as we moved towards a freer trading climate. That did not come. We have hurtled down the slope of free trade very quickly and it has hurt many women and men in Ontario, good working men and women of Ontario who now find themselves out of work.

We now find—and I started out in an auto plant in Oakville right after high school, working my way to get to university—that it's no longer possible to have just an

elementary school or even a secondary school education and really make your way in this life any more. That used to be possible when I came out of high school some 25 years ago. One could come out of high school almost at any grade and if one was lucky enough—and at that time there were just about five jobs for every one of us coming out, a very different situation than there is today—we could find our place in a good industrial manufacturing job in southern Ontario. In the north you could get into a mine, into a mill. Working in the lumbering and mining industry, you could make a very good living. You could take care of yourself, you could raise a family, you could support a family.

Those were great times. Those were great affluent times and Canada did very well, but what we were doing was selling our resources and relying upon an economy in southern Ontario primarily based, as it still is today, on the automobile assembly industry and the parts manufacturing industry. There really wasn't control by Canadians. As long as those tariff barrier walls were there, we could survive; in fact we could prosper.

But that is not so today, and so we find ourselves with hundreds and thousands, in fact 609,000, women and men in Ontario without work. Most of those people want to get back to work and most of those people understand today that they probably require some additional training in order to access the jobs that are now available. That is what has changed. Instead of harnessing and exploiting our natural resources, we have to harness and exploit our intellectual capital. We have to do that by working smarter, and to work smarter we have to be more highly trained.

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That starts with the education system, because today we can't just talk about retraining and training people with secondary school education and post-secondary school education, as we need to do; we also have to get to the fundamentals of our education system. I think we have to be brave and start to give it a very hard look and to ask ourselves the question, is the education system in our province and our country failing us? The evidence is mounting and continues to mount that it may be failing us, and I think as politicians we're going to have to start to ask some questions about the education system. I'd like to start to do that today.

I believe first off that there is a crisis in our education system today. When I travel across this province and talk to employers who fortunately are in a position to hire people, they are astounded and quite frankly shocked at the level of literacy and numeracy that our young children, all our kids who are graduating in Ontario high schools have. It is quite shocking.

Really what business people, the people who create the jobs in this province, are telling me is that we are running out of qualified people for the jobs that are now starting to come on stream. In fact, when we see the economic statistics that come out now every month, we are starting to see some growth in the economy but we're starting to see that growth in areas of highly skilled work. We are not seeing that growth at all, and in fact we're seeing it in the other

direction, in regard to resource extraction and manufacturing. That is the problem.

It has been said that probably the greatest threat to our national security and our economy might be our education system. I think this is time to sound the alarm. I don't just say these things without some factual backup. I would like to put on the record statistics that have been issued by our own Ministry of Education in regard to the skills assessment of students in different countries around the world. I'd like to just take a couple of examples of a couple of areas that I think are extremely important, and that is in mathematics and in science, for it is going to be very important for our young people, in fact all our working people in Ontario, to reach and attain a degree of much higher sophistication in mathematics and science.

In the latest summary of tests that were done in various countries around the world, Canada stands about ninth, for instance, in mathematics testing of age 13 students. We stand behind Korea, Taiwan, Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Hungary, France, Italy and Israel—then Canada comes—with an average percentage correct on those mathematics tests from the high of Korea at 73%, down to Canada at 62%, followed by Scotland and Ireland.

Then we have Ontario English-language schools below the Canadian average, coming in at 12th position in mathematics for age 13. I would have to say that this is not good enough. We as concerned public officials, and I think more importantly most of us as parents, want to make sure that our children can attain excellence, because I think our children have to be the best in the world.

What's interesting is that when we break down the Canadian average we find that Ontario is near the bottom when we compare our standing among all the Canadian provinces. In that same mathematics testing of 13-year-olds in our schools, Quebec French-language schools scored the highest. Saskatchewan French-language schools came next, then British Columbia, Quebec English-language schools, Alberta, Manitoba French-language schools, sixth, Saskatchewan English-language schools, New Brunswick French-language schools, then Nova Scotia, then Newfoundland, then Ontario English-language schools, coming 11th in Canada.

That is just not good enough. I want better for my children, I want better for my province, Ontario, and I certainly want better for my country, because I want to make sure that there's a place for my daughter, who's in Queen's this year in her first year, who would want to be a teacher. I wish her well. I hope she can turn on the young people she'll be teaching in a few years, hopefully finding a teaching job, and to help raise those standards as we all are going to have to do in partnership.

When we look at science testing of school children around the world, we find a very similar situation. In 13-year-olds Canada comes ninth, and in the breakdown of Canadian provinces within this country we find our English schools scoring eighth among Canadian provinces.

When it comes to mathematics of nine-years-olds, again it's very similar: eighth place in mathematics, again fifth in Canadian provinces. By the way, that is actually only out of four provinces, but it becomes fifth when you

break down some English and French school systems in different provinces.

We are not performing very well in Ontario, and I certainly don't have all the answers for that. I don't know where all the blame is, but in some of my remarks further on I certainly will touch upon some of that.

The point I'm making is that we must not abandon our schools to mediocrity, and that's what I'm very concerned about. I'm very concerned that with destreaming, that's what we're going to do. The laudable goals of destreaming are correct. We have to make sure that all our children, of all nationalities, races, creeds and colours, feel there's a strong place for them in this country, in this province and especially in this metropolitan area.

But I'm not sure destreaming is the way to do that. All our children require different levels of care and attention, and I think destreaming is not the way to go. What we do need is some immediate action, or we are going to end up with large segments of our community uneducated, untrained and, unfortunately, unemployed. In the workplace of tomorrow, perhaps those people will even find themselves unemployable.

I think part of the problem is the school system itself. The culture and the structure of our schools today are very much the same as they were in the beginning of the century. I believe it's the education establishment that is failing us, and I think the problem is that the education system has isolated itself from what's going on in the rest of the world. It has not looked at the real world. It has not realized what other progressive organizations in this country and in other countries have realized for the last 20 years and are starting to enact.

They have not realized, number one, that employees are organizations' most important asset and that employee involvement is crucial to solving problems. I think what's very important is the way to attract, retain and motivate good employees, and in this case I'm speaking of teachers: You must give to teachers more control of their working environment. When I look at our school system today I don't see that happening, and I would be calling today for the empowerment of our teachers.

I think what our education establishment also does not realize—a point I want to make and, if you will, a bit of the theme of my speech in regard to my approach to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board that we're speaking to here today—is that rigid, bureaucratic, slow-to-change structures are the least effective organizational forms.

This is my main complaint with OTAB. I tell the minister now, and I'll tell him later on, why our caucus is not going to support this legislation. We feel very strongly that this is the wrong direction to be going in and that's why I will not be able to—

Interjection.

Mr Ramsay: There's no argument that we have a need for training, and what I'll be arguing today is how we go about that. I think the crisis came upon us very rapidly because, as I mentioned before, of a rapidly changing world. In the past, unskilled and uneducated people could

find jobs, but today, as I've said, the workplace no longer has a place for those people. In tomorrow's workplace there's going to be a need for post-secondary education for just about every job. That's not quite true today and it certainly wasn't true in the past, but that is the reality of the future. If anything, I'd like to get that message across to the women and men watching today, the need for all of us to upgrade our skills, and I guess to make the point also that we probably have to get back to a greater sense of self-reliance, that as workers it's our responsibility to make sure we get that training.

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I think it's going to be government's responsibility to give some incentives to both the workplace and individuals and to make the access as easy as possible, but individuals are going to have to realize that there's no automatic work out there and that we're all going to have to strive to do better, to improve our skills; not to work harder but to work smarter in order to survive.

I don't necessarily like that. Quite frankly, I wish the world was the way it was 10 and 20 years ago. Most of us were doing all right and most of the people of this country and province were employed and things were well. But the state of the world has changed, and whether we like that or not, that's the reality. I think it's time politicians started to talk about the reality of what's happening and stand up and have the courage and start to talk about some of the solutions that are needed.

What has caused all of this? These changes have not come upon us because this is the way business wants to do business. They have been driven out of economic necessity. It's really not what business necessarily wants to do, but what it has to do to compete.

One of the main reasons this is happening—and I think it's very important to talk about this, and this is sort of the positive side—is that workers are being asked to take on more responsibility in the workplace. If you will, workers are being empowered to do more.

In old structures, workers could come into a workplace with not very many skills. They could pick up some training, but it really didn't matter how much training they had because we had many layers of managers. We had keepers and watchers, and then we had people watching over them; we had all these layers of management. And with the price we could raise with our resources in our manufacturing sector, we could pay for all this. When we see other countries evolving their business organizations, we now understand that in order to compete we will have to provide services and goods at a much better price. We can't do that with all those layers of management.

If you will, this is an opportunity for the liberation of workers to take on more responsibility. That's what businesses want. They're not necessarily, as employers, looking for you as a prospective employee to come in so they can find out, like in the old days, what ticket you might have, what diploma you have. What employers are most interested in is what skills you have: What can you contribute to this organization to make it effective and, in the end, make it prosperous by making it competitive?

This reduces the need for managers. That's one great, almost, class of worker out there that has suffered as much as anybody. Managerial levels, as the delayering happens, now we find not as important, because we are asking our workers on the line to start to make decisions, to be able to operate sophisticated equipment to produce the goods and services at that level that never was done before.

The positive side is that that's a wonderful opportunity, but right now, on the negative side, the transition, moving to that society, I think is going to be very difficult. What's happening right now and what is sad is the enormous toll in both human and economic terms this is causing; this is causing tremendous hardship among people as we're in this transition period. And it is very tough out there and it's very difficult to get our economy moving again with what is going on right now.

But in the end, I'm very optimistic. I think in 10 and 20 years we will start to have changed our working culture. We will have more flexibility in the workplace, we will have more highly trained workers and we will have empowered workers who take on much more responsibility with their skills. And we'll have much more flexibility in moving from job to job; in fact, in a more international world, we'll have some of our people working in other jurisdictions and some people from those jurisdictions coming to Canada.

But to do that—and I applaud the minister for mentioning that today—business in this country is going to have to take on a bigger responsibility. Quite frankly, the business community in Canada has been negligent in investing in skills training of its employees. When I talk to business people, they give a lot of reasons why that is so, and a lot of those reasons are going to have to be put aside. Business in this country is going to have to start to think more in terms of Canada and Ontario being a corporation, and that having a highly trained workforce in Ontario is beneficial to all of us and to all companies.

There are some very good examples of that. Most of us know IBM as the producer of office machines and certainly of computers, and of late of personal computer machines, but when you really look at what IBM does today too, it's in the training business. It's almost set up a university of its own in Newmarket, which I had the pleasure to visit in June of this year. They understand the culture of training. They understand the culture of workplace education. In fact, they make their courses available to companies around the world, and those people come to Newmarket, north of Toronto, to do that work.

I think that's very exciting. What they realize is that, when there are megaprojects in other countries around the world, sometimes the companies that have benefited from the IBM training come back to IBM—because a lot of those people now have a bit of loyalty to their company—and they make joint partnerships, joint ventures, with IBM and other companies and bid on projects halfway around the world. What we're doing in all of that is strengthening all our companies, strengthening all our workers. That's very important for our country.

Besides business taking on a greater responsibility, government also has to take on a greater role to make sure

our citizens are trained. But as government we must ensure that when our citizens reach the workplace they have obtained an education level that will enable them to be trained quickly and efficiently. We can't expect our employers to be in the remedial education business, and this has happened on many occasions. When companies want to take over a plant and their idea is to modernize, to upgrade that, to put in high-tech machinery and equipment in that operation, in some cases that I'm aware of they have found that their workforce is basically illiterate, and they have found that the task of training their workforce to use that new machinery would be impossible.

We cannot expect business to raise the skills up to a basic level so that retraining can commence. We have to make sure our education system is sound. Our most valuable commodity will be knowledge and ideas and our ability to innovate. That's the direction we have to go as trainers.

I'd like to quote from a book by George Gilder, author of *Microcosm: The Quantum Revolution in Economics and Technology*. I think he said it best—and this will sum up a lot of what I've said so far—when he said:

"The central event of the 20th century is the overthrow of matter. In technology, economics and the politics of nations, wealth in the form of physical resources is steadily declining in value and significance. The powers of mind are everywhere ascendant over the brute force of things. Today the ascendant nations and corporations are masters, not of land and material resources, but of ideas and technologies. Wealth comes not to the rulers of slave labour but to the liberators of the human creativity, not to conquerors of land but to the emancipators of the mind."

That's what the revolution in the workplace is all about right now. It's about the emancipation, the freedom, of working people, of giving them the skills so that they can do the work that garners the high wages we are going to have to garner in order to support the social programs and the society we have built here. Because what's happened in that revolution, the revolution from resource extraction and manufacturing and heavy industry, is that we now have to work at a higher level to earn the wages of higher value so that we can support the tremendous system that most of us—I would say all of us—in this assembly care about and have fought for from time to time. That's what's going to have to happen, starting to work at a higher value, at a higher level, and for that to happen we need more training.

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I'd like to talk a little bit about OTAB now, about its history, where it's going and how it has evolved.

It's been over two years ago now that the Premier's Council, headed at that time by the Liberal government, recognized the fact that Ontario's approach to training really needed to change. The council at that time recognized that the type of skills needed by existing and emerging industries was changing and that the existing approach to skills development was not meeting their needs. The Premier's Council identified the need for workplace training and better education in our schools.

Since then, I believe the province of Ontario has made absolutely no headway in its approach to skills training. It has taken this government more than two years to produce something that will have the power to enable perhaps the most important key to our economic recovery: a training system. The biggest concern at this point is that if it took two years simply to get to this point, how much longer is it actually going to take to design and implement a massive system such as OTAB?

Currently, training is offered through several ministries including the Ministry of Skills Development. The system proposed will move all training into the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, which will control all training in the province of Ontario. I can see many problems with OTAB, and I'd like to begin with the question of what will be different from what we have today. The only difference I can see is that in comparison to the Ministry of Skills Development, this training approach has a board.

I'd like to talk about that for a minute, because what is presumed is going to happen is that basically, once OTAB gets established, the civil servants in the Ministry of Skills Development and civil servants involved in skills training throughout different ministries are all going to be coming to this new superministry, if you will, this crown agency that is going to be at arm's length from government. We're going to create this very big bureaucratic morass, as I see it, except that it will be given some direction by a board. But does a board guarantee an improved training regime?

The next question is quite simple: What guarantees do we have that this system will be better and more responsive than the existing training system? Why were other options not explored? I think we should have a discussion on that. We probably should be starting with the options that might be available out there and maybe look at other options. How can we be guaranteed that this will be a fair system if it's not comprised of a representative board? I'll certainly be talking a little more about that later.

This government was under pressure to come up with a training scheme because of the rapid decline in our economic growth. The legislation we are debating today, I believe, is incomplete and a feeble attempt to present an initiative that we should have seen 18 months ago. In fact, like so many of this government's pieces of legislation and policies, it seems to raise more questions than it answers.

I believe we have been led to believe that this board will be representative of the province and its stakeholders. Well, our next problem with OTAB begins right here, because OTAB is going to be dominated by big labour and big business. I don't see a place in OTAB for two particular groups that I think are significantly left out of this: small business and small or unorganized labour. I have a lot of concerns about that and will certainly return to that later on.

Small business is responsible for 80% of the growth in this province, yet it has no representation on this board. That is unconscionable, because small business has been the engine of economic growth in this province over the last 10 years. They do create 80% of the growth and they, more than the IBMs of the world, have tremendous need

for assistance, for training, because the big multinational companies have budgets.

They've had the CEOs who have had the time to go off in a room and really think about the future of their companies and do that long-term strategic planning. They've understood that unlike the small business person who's maybe behind her cash register in her store, or is in small manufacturing operation, and is so intricately involved in the day-to-day operation of her business that she doesn't have that time to produce those plans, and certainly doesn't have the money and the wherewithal to produce a training program for her employees.

This is why small business has to be involved. Small business has to be brought into and made welcome in the training culture of Ontario. Small business has to be invited on to the OTAB board.

Given this fact, how can the board be representative? I've asked the minister, on a few occasions in question period, other questions about the representation on this board: "How is unorganized labour going to be represented?" The answer I got from this minister was, "Well, they should organize."

I believe in unionism. I believe it's beneficial in many circumstances for workers to organize. In some cases, it's beneficial for a lot of big companies to deal with a union in order to resolve workplace matters. But there are some segments of our society, sectors of our economy, that traditionally have not organized, for whatever reason. There are new sectors of the economy that are growing fast that aren't organized yet. I'm sure many of those, especially after Bill 40, will be organized, and that's fine with me. If the workers want to organize, that's great.

But what about those people today? What about those people who work in a non-unionized workplace? Those people need retraining too. Those people need a say as to what type of training they need. They need some input. I think that's a terrible deficiency in the makeup of this board. If the minister wanted to make sure that his board was inclusive of all the workers of this province, he would open that up and make sure there was a balance between unionized and non-unionized workers, so that it truly reflected the makeup of Ontario, and as the makeup of the Ontario workplace changes, he should then adapt to that.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Who represents them?

Mr Ramsay: The member for Algoma asks across the way, who represents those unorganized people? I know that every time you ask a question of this government, it seems to pose a tremendous difficulty, because there is no organization in place, so that, gee, somehow you can't talk to people in the agricultural industry, to pick one sector that's traditionally not been organized. I think it's possible to talk to people in those industries that don't happen to be organized, to ask their opinion, to invite them on to the board and get their input.

I don't think there's anything wrong with that. I think there are a lot of people out there who would like to help, who would like to make sure that skills training in Ontario

was relevant for the people they could speak for, who share their same experiences in life.

I really don't think there's any way this government could argue that it is fair to hear, in regard to training, only from those workers represented by a union. Unionized workers only represent about 30% of the workplace in Ontario. In fact, 10% of those work in the public service, so we have 20% of the workforce in the private sector unionized.

That's fine, and because they are so well organized, I would even agree to a greater representation than their numbers of organized people on the OTAB board. But I just make a plea to the minister that he should make room for those other workers in other industries who don't find themselves organized, to make sure they have a say so that those very important sectors of the economy will benefit from the work that's going to be going on with OTAB.

I think the message this government is giving out is very clear. What the minister is saying, and he said it to me in question period, is basically, "Do what I say or else." That's what he's saying to the workers of Ontario.

1640

Many small businesses, for whatever reason, don't want to organize and that can be their choice. Some workers in Ontario don't want to organize, but that can be their choice too. The minister claims to be working with businesses, but here lies a very good example of a government that I believe is ignoring the needs of a community.

As a result of the next question, how will the training needs of small businesses, which make up 80% of business, be represented on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, further questions come out of this. The question arises as to whether big business and labour will have a greater ability to place training dollars where they want them, thus ignoring the needs of a small business person and his or her employees.

That's a problem, because what we have now is a board that's dominated by big companies, a board that's dominated by big labour. They have the clout and they have the say, because as the members of the House know, they have the greatest representation on OTAB. There will be eight representatives from business and they will be from big business; there will be eight representatives from the workers' side and they're all going to be from unionized workplaces and organizations. So they're going to be able to dominate the direction of this board.

Where's the direction going to come from, where's the assistance going to come from for small business and for those workers who find themselves on the outside because, for whatever reason, they don't belong to an organized workplace?

The OTAB, to break it all down, is going to be represented by the two cochair, and these two cochair will come from the business and labour group. So then we have left the seven directors representing business, seven directors representing organized labour and two directors representing educators and trainers.

I won't address that right now, because that's a big concern. Not only is there an imbalance in the makeup of OTAB between business and labour because of the compo-

nents thereof—not small business, not unorganized labour—but also there is not the proper balance, in my opinion, between the people who are involved in the workplace and those who traditionally and who will in the future provide training.

There are many partners that have been left out of OTAB. Educators have only been allotted two places, two spots on the board. Of course, in the consultative period there was much gnashing of teeth and fighting among all those educators because there were only two seats, and there certainly are more than two partners in the education community that would like to be a partner in OTAB because they are providers of training and education.

The two seats, it has been decided by this government, will now be reserved for representatives of school boards and of our community colleges in Ontario, and I certainly agree that those people need to be represented on OTAB. But there are also other players out there, other contributors to workplace training. In fact, I think there are some equally important players out there, contributors to workplace training and training in general, who have been ignored.

It's my experience that community-based training is probably the very best training to date, so far. People who have entered training programs have found their berth in the community, usually after a job loss—a mine or a plant going down in the community—through that training program; that's where they have developed their new-found skills. Community trainers are not represented on OTAB.

There are other people out there who are providing training across this province, and those are private trainers. There are companies that are making a living, that are hiring people and people are making a living from training people across this province. There are private colleges and schools.

It's even got to the point where there are franchise operations of training academies right across the province, where people have easy access to very modern programs of training that they can pick up and take at their own leisure; come in at any time of night or day and work on an integral basis with the instructors there. These people need to have some input into OTAB. These people have been supplying training to Ontario workers and to people who understand that they need to upgrade themselves. Those people have been shut out.

To continue with the board, we have one director representing francophones. We have one director representing persons with disabilities. We have one director representing racial minorities. We have one director representing women. I won't argue with the representation there of equity groups. I think in a modern workplace now's the time to start to make sure that representation is there, especially when we're talking about the future of training.

But again, nowhere on this list is small business or unorganized labour. I guess I have to ask the question: Are their training needs not as important as those people who find themselves in organized workplaces, who find themselves in small businesses or running or owning small businesses? I think they are. Again, I would ask the minister that he make a place for those people.

I'd like to stress again community-based trainers who are missing from this, because since I was named Skills Development critic I have travelled to different parts of the province to see how these community-based trainers are working. I have been most impressed by the success rate of these community-based trainers, such as the group in Brantford I visited, that this government tried to eliminate last spring. It was questions from this side of the House that probably saved that organization. How are these people going to be involved? It's going to be important for these people to be involved.

Also missing is the post-secondary education from the university sector. I think it's time we stopped thinking of the universities as the sort of ivory tower halls of learning that do not have relevance to the workplace. Universities are trainers also. Primarily, people go to university to be trained so they can have a job. It's not everyone who goes to university, who seeks out the academic life or is just going there for personal self-fulfilment, although those things come as byproducts of the university education.

I'm certainly happy that I have a university education, but universities primarily are there to provide training for jobs. I think universities in the past maybe weren't really on that track, but they understand that now. I think they're knocking at the door of OTAB. They want to be let in. Again, I ask the minister to open that door to our universities so they can be let in.

Not only do we need training, we also need jobs. We need new ideas which universities, colleges and centres of excellence in projects funded by the university research incentive fund may come up with. We need this expertise. We need these new ideas and innovations that we see our universities and community colleges bringing to the table on the OTAB table. They've got to be let in. I would ask the minister to let that university sector in.

The minister and staff keep claiming this will not provide a flexible system. I have to ask the minister, why is that and how can we do that? I would argue that in fact this system will be less flexible than the existing system because of the power that labour and big business will have. What we're going to ensure is that we are looking for the training needs of the province.

We have to make sure that the board and the people they represent can take off the hats they wear, shed the cloaks of the representation they have for the groups they represent and make sure they sit down at that table to represent the interests of all Ontarians. That's what we have to ensure, and I'm not sure how we can do that.

In fact, this is one of the fundamental flaws of this particular legislation, because what we're asking to do—and if you read this on paper, it sounds very good; it's all motherhood. One of the nicest words we've talked about in the last few years is "partnership." Everybody believes we need partnerships; great stuff. I think everybody should be partners and we all should be working together to rebuild the economy. I'm sure the Premier says that, the minister says that, everybody in the House says that.

1650

But the problem with that is that we're expecting too much too soon from all these so-called partners, because

the reality of the day is that these people have not been partners, and I think we had better take an incremental approach to develop that partnership. Because what we're saying with OTAB is: "We're going to bring all you people together, and we want you to work well together in partnership. We're going to give you a whack of money"—maybe up to \$2 billion, once you take the provincial and federal money and some private sector money coming in—"and we're going to give you total autonomy for all training. We're now going to push you away from the government at arm's length, set you up in a little WCB type of operation, a crown agency of the Ontario government, and give you this responsibility for training."

I'm going to say to you that on paper this sounds very good, but, even though this came originally from the Premier's Council when the Liberal government was there, I think that idea has passed us by, quite frankly. I think it's too late for that, because what I can see is that it's going to take 18 months to even get the structure going; it's going to take another few years to get that partnership matured, to get those people used to working with each and seeing each other's side, as we need to do.

We could progress down that road, but I'd like to see us progress not with giving the authority to this group right off. That's the main argument I have with this minister. He's setting up a superbureaucracy and giving this power without any sort of assurance that there will be cooperation. In fact, if we look at the track records of other similar agencies, unfortunately—and I wish it weren't so—we do not see this cooperation. We've just had an example as of late in the occupational health and safety committee not getting along. When you push people into a room and basically force them to make decisions and work together, and they're not used to doing that, I have to ask, will we be getting the best decisions for all the people of Ontario when it comes to training?

Quite frankly, I think not. While it's crucial that today and tomorrow and next year we have the best training programs in the world in Ontario, I can see this OTAB board bickering behind closed doors as to how it's going to proceed. They'll be sitting down and for the first time starting to share their experiences and developing some friendships and through that developing a partnership, and that is all very well and good and that part of it should proceed, but in the meantime, where will the skills training programs be? Where will the workers of Ontario be in looking for that coordinating body to produce the training programs that are going to be needed by Ontario workers?

I think it's wrong. I think the idea has now passed us by. I think now it is too late to be setting up this superbureaucracy. I will talk a little later of what I think we do need in order to supply some skills training for the people of Ontario.

I'd like to ask the minister when we can expect to see some criteria for determining how funding is going to be allocated, because that is going to be one of the biggest questions of not only the people out there in the various sectors but of the people in the various geographic areas that will be subdivided into OTAB. I certainly want to talk about those local training boards later on.

The legislation also talks about OTAB as a board that is going to form these partnerships and is going to bring together all points of view in respect to labour force development programs and services. How is this government going to ensure that this will happen? Again, what criteria are going to be used? How will the points of view of small business and unorganized labour be represented when they are not on the board? This is a fundamental flaw of this legislation.

The legislation also talks of the minister's powers. What guarantee do we have that a secretariat will not be established? I want to talk about this a little bit, because we had an example, just a couple of days ago in the House in question period, of a question in regard to the Workers' Compensation Board that I can foresee is going to happen in a year or two years from now in regard to OTAB; that something major is going on in that particular crown agency, and the minister is going to get up, unable to give a good response, unable to say that he or she has a handle on this and that whatever is going on is wrong and that he or she is going to intervene and get this turned around. I have grave concerns that, just like the WCB is going to be building a Taj Mahal, maybe OTAB's going to build a Taj Mahal to the superbureaucracy for training.

This is the same sort of complaint I had earlier in my speech when I talked about the establishment of the education. I see the Taj Mahals of boards of education at the same time that I see our children in portables. That's wrong, and I can see that we're building an empire here. We've got another empire that is safe for government because we're putting it off to the side. The last thing we need in government organization, the last thing the Ontario economy and community needs, is another bureaucracy.

Right now, this government is unable to bring labour and business together to the table. What is going to happen if, once OTAB is established, such a dispute arises? Will any training efforts be halted until resolution? Quite frankly, are we going to get down to the lowest common denominator, where we have to come to a sawoff about what is needed? When each side gives and takes in the to and fro of bargaining, in the end the people of Ontario are going to be left with a deal that came out of the almost collective bargaining model OTAB is.

It reminds me somewhat of the referendum debate we had with the Constitution, because the Constitution that people were asked to vote upon came as a result of bargaining and dealing and negotiating over a period of a couple of years, at least.

I am concerned that we're going to be left with the very same when it comes to OTAB, that after the decisions are made, we're not going to be left with very much. That's not what our workers need in Ontario today.

Who's going to intervene if such a dispute occurs? Are we going to know about it? That's what I want to ask: Are we going to know about those disputes? Are we going to know what's going on over there? We're not going to be able to ask the minister of the day daily questions about this, because it's not in his ministry any more; it has been shunted aside in an arm's-length crown agency.

On page 9, under "Local Training and Adjustment Boards, Councils and Reference Committees," 18(1) states, "OTAB may designate local training and adjustment boards that have been established in accordance with the regulations made under this act."

Why is the word "may" being used? Is it not expected? What will happen if an area does not get a local board together? This brings me into the discussion about local boards. For the people that aren't as familiar with how the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is going to be organized, it's going to be headed up by a superboard that has authority for training across Ontario, but in order to give regional representation, there will be local training and adjustment boards called LTABs. In the consultation period that happened this spring—and I attended many of those meetings—the minister's consultative committee went out to the various regions to ask them how these boards would be set up.

The number one problem we have is, what are the borders of these geographic LTABs going to be? What are the geographic boundaries going to be to set up these local training and adjustment boards in Ontario? There's great argument about that.

I'd like to say that it's not just a matter of turf or people being parochial, but it's necessary, I believe, for people to have a commonality of interest if they are to work well together, so I'm not sure you can shove steelworkers from Hamilton in with farmers from Haldimand-Norfolk. I'm not sure they have a commonality of interest. Both have legitimate concerns and desires and needs for upgrading of their skills, but I'm not sure they're in sync, that they're in gear with each other to be working as to what are the needs.

1700

I'm doubly concerned that if you have such a board that's proposed for that particular area and that if all the workers have to come from unionized workplaces, and traditionally agriculture has not been a sector of the economy that has been organized, then you're going to have an LTAB that's dominated by steelworkers in Hamilton hopefully trying to make some decisions for agricultural workers in some of the more rural areas of Haldimand-Norfolk.

We all know there's going to be and there is today tremendous need for training programs for steelworkers in Ontario. In fact, CSTEAC, the Canadian Steel Trades Employment Congress, had been very successful in producing tremendous training programs in Timiskaming when my two iron ore mines went down about four years ago, and we know that with the layoffs that are happening in the steel industry at Dofasco, and unfortunately there may be more to come in other companies in Hamilton, we are going to need some good training programs and some good coordination as to how those programs will be delivered for steelworkers in Hamilton.

But if you were to throw all those people with their concerns and understand their parochial concerns—and I would be too if I was there as a steelworker—how am I going to make some judgements for agricultural workers down in Haldimand-Norfolk? How am I going to do that, especially when I and my friends are losing our jobs? First

of all, I want to make sure we can try to get our own people retrained, and that's human nature and I accept that. But the other point is that I might not have the experience, the knowledge, the understanding of what agricultural workers need or what they're going through at this particular time.

That's why it's going to be particularly crucial that when the local training and adjustment boards are formed, they're formed geographically to ensure there's a commonality of interest among the working men and women and businesses in that particular area. Also, and I'll make the plea again to the minister, you've got to open up the worker representation to non-organized, non-unionized workers because you may find in some particular parts of the province, because a particular sector of the economy dominates that workforce, that there may not be very many eligible candidates and that they do not represent the majority of the work that goes on in that particular region.

So I'm asking for some understanding, for some flexibility and above all, a word that this government likes to use, some fairness, because certainly it is not fair to exclude 70% of the workers in Ontario from making decisions in regard to training and adjustment. It's all of their futures and again I ask the minister to reconsider that.

I have a lot of questions about the LTABs. We'll talk about a few of them today. How are the LTABs going to be funded? How are the local boards going to derive their funding from the main board of OTAB itself? What are the formulas that are going to be in place? Are we going to throw a lot of money into an area, because there's been tremendous job loss, to the detriment of another area that still needs to upgrade its workers? Are we going to be doing it on a per capita basis, just based on population, based on the people who are there?

Are we going to have other considerations because of large geographic areas and the difficulty of setting up programs, and maybe because there's a small pool of workers in a particular sector and it might be more expensive to produce training for those people because we don't have the economies of scale? How are we going to fund those organizations? If there's sort of the great northeast board and if I have my say, and many people in Timiskaming, and it becomes larger than was proposed, is that board going to have sufficient resources to produce the training programs for probably a small number of people?

We might identify in that vast region that maybe we need six meat cutters, for instance. Maybe to put on a course for six meat cutters might not be as efficient as it might be doing it in Toronto for 24 meat cutters at a time. But if that's what the need is and we find we have more cost, is there going to be the flexibility in funding the local boards in order to provide the training that is going to be necessary? I would hope the minister has some answers to those questions.

The legislation discusses its fiscal years, its annual reports, its accounting; it describes auditors and their function. What the legislation fails to provide is an answer about how the success of this system will be determined and at what stage. What I'm talking about is not just accountability, but to start, I am talking about accountability.

I'm very concerned, because of the arm's-length nature of OTAB, that it will be very difficult for me, as a representative in the Legislature of Ontario, to see the accountability of OTAB. It will probably be more difficult for workers out there and people in business to make sure that OTAB and the LTABs are accountable to the taxpayers of Ontario, because when you privatize this—that's basically what you are doing, and I find it ironic that the Liberals are going to be debating with New Democrats against privatizing an important function of government, but that's what's happening here—you take away a lot of the day-to-day accountability that this forum provides, because question period provides that day-to-day forum of accountability. Yes, I'm sure, as the viewers realize, this becomes the most dramatic part of what we do here in this assembly, but it also is a very important function of a parliamentary democracy.

As I said before, I can just visualize a question of the minister a year from now, or a question I might ask him in two years, and basically he just puts up his hands and says, "Well, this is a crown agency over here and I will see in its annual report that it's doing that and I will have to certainly make sure it lives up to its memorandum of understanding at the end of the year." But how are we going to know that in the day-to-day business this board is functioning for the people of Ontario?

More than just accountability, which is really just finding out what's going on and making sure they're doing things, how are we truly going to assess the worth and the success of this endeavour? How are we going to know that OTAB works? How are we going to know that it's working? Again, being at arm's length from the government, I don't believe the minister is going to be able to know on a day-to-day basis that this multimillion-dollar super-bureaucracy at arm's length from the government is working, and I'm very concerned about that. I am doubly concerned, being an opposition member, that I will not have the ability to find out from this government whether OTAB, which is being funded by hard-earned taxpayers' dollars, is working for the people of Ontario.

If this were just some inspection agency or something like that, I might not be as concerned about this as I am, but I think all of us in this chamber appreciate the importance of skills training at this particular time in our economy. I think everybody in the province now understands the importance of skills training and the necessity for all of us to upgrade our skills. I would say that skills training right now is just about one of the most important endeavours of government today, at this particular time and certainly in this jurisdiction, where we find that perhaps many of us are a bit underskilled for the jobs that are starting to develop and will be developed in the next few years.

Accountability and the ability to assess the success of OTAB are absolutely fundamental, and I don't think there's enough there to give us that assurance it will work for the women and men of Ontario.

I guess I bring this forward because we are witnessing right now, and because it's out in the open we are able to witness it, the failure of another government training program; that is, Jobs Ontario.

I'm sorry it is failing, but because it's being carried out, is being administered through the ministry and we have public access to what's happening, we understand that, we know that and we can help the government do something about it. We can put some pressure on the government, if you will, to get the situation corrected. I'm sorry, again, that it's not working.

1710

Under 700 people have been placed in this program, which was to have placed, according to the Treasurer's budget, 10,000 people this year. That's a lot of people who are going to have to be established in a workplace, in a training program, between now and the end of this fiscal year which ends March 31. In a matter of four months, we are going to have to place 9,300 people if this government is to complete its promise to the people of Ontario through Jobs Ontario. I doubt that is going to happen, and that's sad because I wish we could have placed 10,000 people.

The problem is that the program has been ill conceived. In an economy that is not growing, it is very difficult, and as the stats show, it is next to impossible to provide an incentive to employers to bring people on stream into the workplace with a 35% wage incentive if they're not hiring people. If that's the only opportunity this government sees for training people, then we're not going to get people trained. That's what's happening. We have a target of 10,000 people and we've got under 700 people being brought in under this program.

No mechanism for evaluation appears to exist in that program either, and the same mistake cannot be made with OTAB. How will we all decide if it's working? How is the minister going to decide if it's working? What criteria will be used to evaluate OTAB?

How are we going to evaluate the local training boards? They're going to be even more difficult to get a handle on. They're going to be brought in over time. I hope the transition is going to be smooth. I'm very concerned about that transition, because today in just about every region of Ontario, we have organizations in place that almost fit the bill. We have community industrial training committees that were set up by the federal government, and in most areas they're working very well. They're working in a cooperative way in their communities, business and labour, getting people back to work and getting people trained.

With the introduction of OTAB of course, unfortunately we will scrap all of that. We throw the partnership that's already there out the window to establish this new partnership. I'm concerned about that. That may be even more difficult to get going than will be the main board, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. Already there have been some working relationships developed at the local level.

If all of that is scuttled and we try to rebuild that vessel, then I think there's going to be some animosity there that some of the old partners were included and some weren't. We're going to ask those people to reinvent that partnership, to get to know each other again, and in that interval, time will be lost and training opportunities will be lost. How are we going to get a handle on that? How are

we going to measure the progress of that? How are we going to measure the success of that? How is this going to be measured?

I have to ask the minister if he will be doing a cost analysis of all this. I think today the one thing taxpayers ask me more than anything else is, "Are we getting benefit from our tax dollars?" As we've embarked upon the road of setting up this new superministry again, this super-bureaucracy at arm's length from government, people are going to want to know if we're getting our value from it.

How are we going to know that? Will we get a cost analysis of OTAB so that we can see, for all the cost it's going to incur, that we're getting the value out of this, that we're getting women and men out there in the workplace who have been trained to a higher level of work? Are we getting the benefit? Is it cost-effective? Is it the best way to go? If the minister plans to do that, when? If not, I'd certainly like to know from the minister why not.

If an LTAB is proven to be ineffective, what action will be taken to correct the situation and who will take that action? I can foresee a question period not too far down the line when an LTAB gets established in some region of the province and some of the people on that board come to some of the members of the opposition and say: "This is impossible. We can't work together. Whether it's a personality conflict or whatever it is, this is not working. We're not getting any agreement. We're not getting programs out for the people who need them."

If there's a problem, how, when I bring that up to the minister in question period, is he going to deal with that? How is he going to make the correction that's going to be needed when we're going to get local people working together? How can we ensure that all this is going to work? I guess that's the fundamental question: How is all of this going to work? It has to work so that we can put people to work, but I doubt that this is going to work at all.

How is OTAB going to motivate business to invest more in job training? As the minister pointed out in his opening remarks and I in mine, business has been negligent in this country in investing in its people. Business in this country has to invest more in training, there's no doubt about it, and government has to make sure that business does that, if we're all to survive. But how is OTAB going to do that?

What is different about OTAB than from having all the ministries of government we have today with their message about investing in people, specifically the Ministry of Skills Development and its messages and programs to try to convince business to invest in people? How is that going to change? How is OTAB going to make that encouragement happen to business? What incentives does it have to offer? These are some of the questions I want to ask the minister.

There's another question I want to ask. I'm not sure if he's thought about this, but I'd like to know about some of the relationships that he envisions might happen between OTAB and other ministries. Now that OTAB will no longer be a part of a ministry of government, is it going to have the ability to communicate and function with other ministries of government? Will, for instance, the Ministry

of Industry, Trade and Technology have the ability to offer training incentives for new businesses as it does today, or will this be taken away from that ministry?

If we are to throw all sorts of training areas into OTAB, are we going to be hampering the ability of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology to offer incentives to businesses coming into Ontario: "We believe in training and we are going to put our money where our mouth is. We can offer a new business in Ontario some financial incentive in order to get workers trained so that we can establish a particular manufacturing plant or service industry plant in Ontario"?

I think that's an important question. If so, what would be the nature of these incentives? I think that's important and I ask the minister and his staff to address that, because there will have to be an ongoing relationship between OTAB and the government of the day. It needs to have the ability to function that way and interact with other ministries.

I guess one of the basic, fundamental questions is, what assurance do we have that training is going to occur? What level of training is anticipated coming from OTAB? There's nothing in this legislation that actually states that training must take place. I invite the minister to look at that.

How will sectoral needs be coordinated with LTAB? The minister is doing some things that I do like. One of those things, and I think one of the answers to the way to go for training in Ontario rather than establish OTAB, is to carry on with these sectoral agreements that the minister is embarking upon with the various sectors of the Ontario economy.

One of the latest ones that the minister announced a few weeks back in the House was a major sectoral agreement with the automotive parts industry. That is very important and that is not something you can deal with on a regional level; that is something you have to deal with at a province-wide level. But it's something in a very specialized field and a very important field, because the majority of the manufacturing sector still in Ontario is dominated by auto parts.

In fact, it's particularly significant, because what's been occurring in Ontario is that we have been losing the lower-skill-level jobs in the automotive industry to jurisdictions such as Mexico and other low-wage jurisdictions in the Pacific Rim. What we have to ensure is that we have auto parts workers and assembly workers who are not only highly motivated but are highly trained so that we can convince the big automobile companies of the world to do business in Ontario.

1720

If we show those companies that Ontario is willing to put the money forward to enter into those agreements with that particular sector, to take an example—we need to do this with all sectors—I think we can at the moment hold the remaining jobs we have and hopefully we can attract new jobs in that particular sector.

That's something that's very specialized and something that's ongoing, and it's in progress. How is the transition going to occur between what's happening in that sector

and the development of OTAB as it starts to organize itself? I have a lot of concerns about that.

I would like to return a little to what's happening in the automobile industry. I still think that as we see many of these jobs going to Mexico, there's going to be a tremendous new partnership opportunity between workers in Mexico producing components for major appliances and for automobiles here in Ontario, and I think we can still carry on a majority of that work while taking advantage of lower-cost parts from other jurisdictions.

What happens when the sectoral needs and OTAB do not merge? What if OTAB goes off into one particular direction and we already have a sectoral agreement in place or another one is going to come into being? How are we going to coordinate that, and who is going to step in if agreement cannot be reached?

Whenever the issue of training comes up, the topic of education also arises. We cannot ignore the fact that earlier this year, as I said before, when we tested our students we did not do that well. I would say to the minister that we're going to have great difficulty in training and retraining people of all ages in Ontario if we can accept, as we have accepted and continue to accept, a dropout rate of 30% of our students from high school in Ontario. That is not acceptable; it is not acceptable at all.

In fact, I would like to see a lot more of the minister's energies addressed to what he has started to do, that is, really start to concentrate on apprenticeship programs. I think the answer is going to be making sure that every boy and girl who leaves high school has a skill to do work in the workplace in Ontario in the mid-1990s and also has the ability to continue to learn.

Right now, basically what we say to our children is: "If you can't sit in that seat for four to five years, tough. We don't have a place for you. Drop out." And where do they drop out? They drop out on to the street and they get picked up by the social services net, or they drop out on the street and they start getting into trouble and they're picked up by the criminal justice system.

That's not good enough. That's not good enough for my children, that's not good enough for the children of the people I represent in Timiskaming and I'm sure for all the children of Ontario. That's not good enough at all.

We have to ensure that we have new and innovative ways of imparting education and training to our young people. We've got to make sure that the rambunctious kid who can't sit in that chair for four or five years can be there for maybe a couple of hours in the morning getting some basic skills, but is out in a workplace in the community and learning how to be a tool-and-die maker or whatever job, but understands the habits of the workplace, picks up a skill that is useful and gets into the workforce.

That's where we have to concentrate, to make sure we don't just allow these people to fall through the cracks, because that's where we're so behind the eight ball, if you will, right now. So many people over the years have dropped through the cracks that now we're having difficulty finding a position in the workplace for those people. That's the problem, and we have to be really addressing

that, starting with our young people and all the way through to our workers.

The problem with all that is that it requires money, and this government recently announced a 0% increase in transfer payments to education and the colleges and universities sector. We're going to have to set our priorities. I have great sympathy for the government and the position it finds itself in today economically, because there isn't that much money out there. The taxpayers of Ontario have had enough, they cannot pay any more, and I certainly hope we will not see any tax rises in the next budget. They've had enough, so we're going to have to manage with what we have. Until we can get the economy growing, we're not going to be seeing more tax revenues.

But it's a matter of priorities. Whether you stop planting trees in northern Ontario or you stop funding our post-secondary institutions, it's a matter of making choices. I think the education of our young people is not a place to be making that choice. We've got to ensure, because it's our future, that our young people are going to be capable of carrying the economy of Ontario. I ask the minister to look at that.

We're at a point now where we have legislation, we have a framework of what OTAB should look like, we actually have a minister who wants to proceed with setting up that board, yet we still don't have all the cooperation of all the players to get that board on line. This is a bit of sort of proof, I guess, of what's going on and what is going to go on.

I want to bring to the House's attention an interesting news clip that happened on the local CBC television station, CBLT, here in Toronto on August 19. I have the script of that, and it shows what I'm talking about, the different perspectives people are bringing to OTAB, the different perspectives by these different partners, and why I think it's going to be very difficult to get OTAB off to a smooth launch.

This is a report that was filed by Colleen McEdwards of CBLT. She starts off the show by saying that people enter a training program hoping to learn new skills to help them find jobs, and talks about how the government feels training is the answer. She introduces the idea of OTAB and states, "OTAB is the cornerstone of this government's economic recovery." Certainly that's what this government will tell you in answers to questions or in speeches.

Then we have Jim Bennett of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. He's here, by the way, and also representatives from labour are here, Mr Gord Wilson, and I'll quote from him in a minute. Mr Bennett said, and I'll quote exactly from what he said: "I'd say there are about half a dozen key issues that remain to be solved. Any one of them are fundamental after the thing and could fall apart."

Ms McEdwards talks about OTAB's governing body and how it wanted to get established by July and how the government's having problems getting it done by July. In fact, it's still not here and we're into the last day of November.

Mr Bennett goes on: "The government is trying to force large businesses into appointing its representatives

on this training board before the detailed mandate of the board is worked out. We feel that that's like being asked to sign a blank cheque, and the business community is saying no."

Then Gord Wilson, who's the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, says, "Well, it's not yet clear whether the positions taken by people around the table are planted in cement or whether there is some flexibility, and I think all we have to do is to try and find what it is we can all live within." Again, this is talking a bit about the compromise that might have to happen. Then he says, "If that can't be reached, then OTAB's life would be a very short one, I'm afraid." That's the president of the OFL speaking.

Then the reporter continues, "The minister responsible says OTAB is new, it's ground-breaking and there are going to be some growing pains." Mr Allen is quoted as saying, "It's quite normal that when you try to bring a series of groups together province-wide that have never worked together"—as I have said—"even in their own constituencies around training issues, it's not surprising that they need to feel their way, find their way and do it constructively and positively."

1730

I couldn't agree more with the minister. That's right. These people are going to need time. I'm asking the minister to give them time to get to know each other, to give them time to get to know their problems, their concerns and their goals, to give them time to try to find a resolution of the differences that may be there between them, so they can work together for the betterment of the people of Ontario.

To forge this group as a group of partners who don't have that experience of partnership, whose partnership will take, I think, years to mature; to give them all the money Ontario and the government of Canada will spend in this province for skills training; to give them full authority and autonomy; to sit them out at arm's length from government without that day-to-day accountability that this parliamentary system affords, is wrong. It's wrong at such a crucial time when we need to be working at skills training.

We need to come up with programs very quickly that offer flexibility for individuals and workers. We need, instead of building a bureaucracy, to be empowering individuals. We need to be looking at ideas such as educational and training entitlements where, from birth, people basically have a ticket that gives them entry into training facilities in Ontario, anywhere in this province, for what they need.

That is something that maybe needs to be examined at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary school levels: to empower people to make the choices, to empower trainers and people who provide training to make sure they are free to compete with each other, to make sure they can deliver the best training available. Right now anybody in business in Ontario understands what he has to do to become competitive. They understand the equipment and the machinery they have to purchase in order to be competitive. They understand the training that's going to be needed to make their workers productive, to make sure their workers will be successful. They know that.

Our job is not to tell them what to do, but to offer those incentives, to offer those encouragements. That's what we have to be doing. To build a brand-new superbureaucracy, pushing it out where we can't get at it every day, where the minister won't be able to supervise it, making it fully in charge of all skills training in Ontario, I think is a big mistake.

When it was first talked about in the late 1980s, it wasn't a bad idea. We still sort of thought that big governments were the answer, but quite frankly, I think it's an idea whose time has now passed. I think we need more flexibility. I think we need more immediate contact with the workplace. We need programs that truly offer an incentive, even in an economy that is not growing strongly, that can help our workers get retrained and help our employers get people in place in the workplace.

I will be discussing those ideas in the next little while. With members of my caucus, I will be talking to people across Ontario in the next four or five months, bringing together groups to hear their ideas of how we should be pursuing skills training. We'll be bringing those ideas forward in the next little while and I look forward to more debate on this. I'm looking forward to taking this into committee and making sure, through the committee process, that we get the input of all the people of Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any questions or comments?

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I must say I was a little surprised listening to the member during his address. I believe his caucus is going to oppose this legislation. Quite frankly, if that is the case, I find that rather appalling.

There have been more reports written in this province about the need for some type of overall plan for training. It was his government's report, the Premier's council on skills development, that said we need to set up the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. It had people from business, labour and the broader community on that Premier's council. They studied other jurisdictions as to what they had done. He is saying that now they are opposing it, that now we should do some more consultation, present some new ideas on what skills development should be and what the opportunities should be.

I think the member was also full of contradictions. At one point he talked about how we can't use the old-fashioned structures we have used, that hard, bureaucratic structures wouldn't be flexible. Then he goes on to criticize because we're setting up what we believe is a more flexible-type agency than strictly a ministry trying to operate skills development.

The member also talked about reality and about how people, particularly in our high school system, need to be

getting some of the skills, how they need practical work experience. I don't know which jurisdictions he's been in, but I want to tell you that in my county in Oxford co-op education has been alive and well for about a dozen years now. There are literally hundreds—no, I would even go as far as to say thousands—of students each year who are involved in co-op education. I make use of them in my own office, because I think those are the types of opportunities.

I am just appalled that the Liberal caucus is going to vote against this initiative. They are against a formalized training procedure in this province? That is absolutely appalling in this day and age.

The Deputy Speaker: Any further questions or comments? Mr Ramsay, you have two minutes.

Mr Ramsay: I welcome the comments from the member from the government party. Gee, that's what the system's about. I'm sorry he's shocked and appalled that maybe we don't agree with something this government's doing. We certainly stood in our place two years ago, when you first were elected, to say that you had to address the issue of skills training and that you needed to get on to it. It's taken two years and two months now to really come up with a concrete proposal of what to do.

Times are changing very rapidly. I don't think this is the idea that's going to be the right idea for today. I think we have to agree to disagree. I look forward, though, to hearing the input of people who are interested in skills training. I certainly would hope that we will see a lot more interest, with the introduction of this bill, in skills training. I think all of us on all sides of this House have to ensure that we heighten the interest of skills training with all the people in this province, because it is going to be one of the biggest issues that faces us. That's going to be one of our responsibilities.

I hope that, with the minister, we can get many weeks of committee discussion on this bill. Hopefully, we can get to other parts of the province too, to give people an opportunity so that they don't have to come to Queen's Park, so that we can get to the major centres of this province. I don't know if the minister's going to be up to it, but he can travel. They'd like to see him there and I'd like to see members from all parties, in a parliamentary committee, going to the major centres so we can get the input of people from Ontario so that we can see what the needs are.

If this legislation is going to get through—the member shouldn't get too upset; he's got the majority government there—at least we can bring some amendments forward that can make it the best that it is.

[Report continues in volume B]

ERRATA

| No. | Page | Column | Line | Should read: |
|-----|------|--------|------|--|
| 87A | 3573 | 1 | 47 | some information which I understand has been available to all school boards for some time—I think back to last |
| 87A | 3577 | 1 | 52 | which, if I may say so, patience, persistence and every solid |
| 87A | 3577 | 2 | 28 | Pfeiffer, who's the general manager for Richardson Securities of Canada (GmbH), in Frankfurt, has discounted the |
| 87A | 3577 | 2 | 47 | very directly this: For example, the issue of hydro costs. Let's talk about hydro costs. Let's talk about why |

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative, adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale | Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | L ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York | Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario | PC L ND | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey Guelph | Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek | PC ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord | Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel | L ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND ND ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles Kitchener | Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary Ferguson, Will | L ND ND | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence | Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph | PC L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| St. George-St. David Sarnia | Vacant Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessinger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
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Deuxième session, 35^e législature

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Tuesday 1 December 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 1 décembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 1 December 1992

[Report continued from volume A]

1740

ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE CONSEIL ONTARIEN DE FORMATION ET D'ADAPTATION DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE

Continuing the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 96, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board / Loi créant le Conseil ontarien de formation et d'adaptation de la main-d'oeuvre.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Are there any other members who wish to participate in the debate?

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): It's with some degree of pleasure that I'm here this afternoon and able to speak to Bill 96, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board Act.

I should premise my remarks by saying that it is hoped that with the remarks I do read into the record this afternoon we will be giving the minister some direction as to what we think would be helpful to him in making changes to this piece of legislation, because although my colleague the member for Timiskaming, I think, made a sincere and honest presentation, he was met with some refutation from the member for Oxford. I should only say, in defence of my colleague, that I don't know, with the concerns that have been expressed to us during the public hearings, why anyone would expect us to support the legislation in its present form.

I thought the reason that we had these debates in our Legislative Assembly and the reason that we referred these bills out for committee was to take a look at the response, finally, to the bill in its printed form, which most people have just seen for the first time in the last week or so, and then, during the normal democratic process, to offer our advice for change. So I would hope that no one is disappointed, after the rounds of public consultation on the board itself and not on the legislation, that we would be accused of voting against this piece of legislation at this point in time, given that I suppose the major concern with the bill is with response to the makeup of OTAB itself in section 9. There are, we think, opportunities for change there, and we're certainly going to be expecting that members of the communities involved will be there to help us.

It's going to be a little while this afternoon, because I do intend to use the time allotted as a critic for Skills Development and to begin by saying that it's been with pleasure that we've been able to work with the minister and the ministry on this piece of legislation. They've certainly made every effort to inform us in advance, in our capacity as critics, as to what steps they would next be taking.

I have met with the minister on a number of occasions, and I think sometimes he even takes my advice. Other

times we agree to disagree, but I think that it's been a good working relationship. I hope that in the next few months, and certainly over the term of the break, we'll be able to talk more openly in public hearings for the first time really. The consultation process that took place on the boards around the province wasn't particularly helpful for the elected members because most of those hearings took place, I'm sure, when the House was sitting, and we didn't always have the opportunity to be part of those hearings. But I will be speaking to those.

The responsibilities of this Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, which will be established as a crown agency, are to provide shared, cooperative leadership of Ontario's labour force development system and to assume the responsibility for "promotion, funding, coordination, design and provision" of provincial labour force training and adjustment services, including workplace and sectoral training, apprenticeship programs, labour force adjustment and labour force entry/re-entry programs.

Just on that note, I should underline the word "apprenticeship." The apprenticeship system in the province of Ontario has been in need of significant overhaul for perhaps the last 20 years, and, I have to say, it's not with any surprise that many members in this House, including the member for Chatham-Kent, who has just advised me that the system has failed, would agree with both him and myself in using the word "failed."

It's not that we haven't asked for changes from the education community, from the labour community and from the training community. I have to compliment the government in this regard, because I do hope they're going to take a serious look at changing the apprenticeship programs; and although it doesn't appear to be within the mandate of this board, and perhaps it shouldn't be, I do hope that the board will reach out and that the government, through the ministries of Education and of Colleges and Universities, will reach out to work with the board.

The direction must come from the government—that's my view—separate from this board, which is a separate agency. I think the real drive for any change in the apprenticeship program cannot wait until this training board is up and running; it has to come now. I say that with a great deal of enthusiasm, because our young people and this province and the future of our economy are dependent upon training, and training begins with young people.

I believe the place for the beginning of our apprenticeship programs will be within our own school systems in cooperation with our communities, in cooperation with our community colleges, in cooperation with our universities, in cooperation with the labour movement, business and industry. It has to begin with the government itself, not any special agency of the government.

As I go on with regard to the responsibilities, the next one would be—I'm talking about the third—to pursue labour market training and development programs that are

equitable and accessible to all the people of Ontario. That's a tremendous responsibility, to pursue labour market development and research.

Mr Speaker, I'd like to advise you that many of the local industrial training boards, as many of us know them in our own communities, are working, even though there has been some criticism. Especially in the New Global Economy report, which is better known as the Premier's Council report, they were criticized. It was also recognized that many of them were working very well. I think we need to have a good structure for delivery but, more important, we need to have people who are keenly interested in getting things done or a structure will not work.

All I can say is that there has been some market development and there has been research. Needs have been established and trainers have agreed to cooperate in many training programs that were established and supported by the local industrial training committees. I hope that tremendous expertise will not be lost.

The last responsibility of this board I will speak to today is the responsibility for responding to the broad policy and priority directions set by the government, which leads me into talking about the responsibilities of government here.

I will always reflect back on their responsibilities with respect to apprenticeship training. I will say it over and over again. Although I've talked about the board's responsibilities, the government's responsibility will remain for setting social and economic policy, including labour market policy, and for federal-provincial relations.

Social and economic policies, in my view, are directly related to the needs of families. The most important need of people today is to have a job, to work and support their families. We all know that in the past, we have not looked at the most important, essential item in that whole equation of work, that is, to have the skills to do the job. Apprenticeship training needs to be improved.

I should also say that we can't just improve these programs without changing the attitudes of parents and families and in fact the general public in this country with regard to people who work in our labour force with their hands. For some reason, we have lost it in North America. It seems to me that the great goal of every family is to educate all children so that they go on to university and college. That's the only thing that matters.

It's failed. That dream and goal have failed. Many of those young people in today's world are not getting jobs. They are not trained for the real work. Other countries have passed us by in the past and they're continuing to pass us by.

I'd like to move on and talk about the structure of this agency that is to be set up under this legislation, Bill 96. The board of directors or the governing body will be comprised of 22 representatives: two co-chairs, one representing business and one representing labour; seven directors representing business; seven directors representing labour; two directors representing educators and trainers; one director representing francophones—I will commend the government here, because that was in response to public consultation; there wasn't enough response to public consultation, but

that's one area where they did respond—one director representing persons with disabilities; one director representing racial minorities; and one director representing women.

The makeup of the governing body was modified slightly, as I've already mentioned. I should say that the francophone representative and a non-voting municipal representative have been added to the board. In addition, an individual representing aboriginal people may be appointed in the future to OTAB's governing body at the request of and in consultation with recognized representatives of aboriginal people. This was certainly something we heard during the public hearings and we're pleased to see the response.

The labour market partners will nominate the candidates to the governing body and they will be appointed by the government, and the government will require that the list of candidates reflects gender balance; the diversity of Ontario's population, including geographic diversity; and Ontario linguistic duality. That's subsection 9(3).

1750

Members will be appointed for terms of up to three years and may be reappointed. We'll be taking a look at that tenure as we move through the bill, with a view to asking the government exactly what it means about the number of terms members can have.

There will also be ex officio representation on the board from the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The agency will be managed by a chief executive officer and staffed by civil servants.

We know and we have heard that this—because this will be a schedule 4 facility—may be, in my view, the biggest single mistake with regard to the actual setting up of a body as a schedule 4 facility. I have to tell you that I would have preferred that it be part of one of the ministry's responsibilities, because then the government of the province of the day would have a much more hands-on approach to what's happening. We would certainly have a much more direct opportunity to consult and give direction on a day-to-day basis than what we do when we set up a separate agency such as OTAB.

I said, when the minister first introduced the legislation, that accountability was a great concern to us. I will say that there are various accountability mechanisms in the act and we will be making representation to improvements to this during the committee hearings. Right now, the minister will have power to issue directives to the board and can request a report at any time on any aspect of OTAB's mandate, powers or duties. I think everybody should know that a minister issuing directives to the board is one thing, but it would have been much more powerful a statement if a minister had kept this within the responsibilities of his own ministry. Then he wouldn't have had to worry about issuing directives to a board that may or may not be understood or acted upon. I think that's a key statement.

OTAB will be required to develop multi-year corporate plans and detailed annual submissions on operational plans and spending estimates for cabinet approval. That's fine. We're talking about accountability here. My great concern would be, of course, that we're involved in an agency that

does too much paperwork, but my hope is that one will use his or her common sense in this regard.

OTAB will be subject to regular and special audits by the Provincial Auditor and review by the public accounts committee and the legislative committee on government agencies. It would be interesting to know what other schedule 4 facilities have this built-in accountability. It's one piece of research we haven't done, with regard to the responsibilities for corporate plans and regular and special audits. Is this also true of the Workers' Compensation Board or Ontario Hydro or other bodies that have driven up their debts and certainly haven't, in my view, been acting in a responsible manner?

They're going to be part of the tremendous challenge for the future citizens of this province and for our young people as they take on the tremendous debt, not only as set out by this government in its own budget—and I'm now talking about absolutely billions of dollars we owe—but these crown agencies as well. We will be watching this one very carefully. We will be making these kinds of comments and asking these kinds of questions of the government as we proceed through the public hearings.

OTAB must comply with relevant Management Board, treasury board and Human Resources Secretariat directives, with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the French Language Services Act, the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act and the Public Service Act. Board members must declare any conflict of interest and will develop bylaws regarding the procedure for when such conflict arises.

One of our great concerns—and I'm sure the minister will have an opportunity to look at the statements my colleagues have made in this debate this evening—is the issues that have not been worked out at all, the questions that have been asked. These issues will be left, in our view—at least at this point in time; perhaps we could have them clarified down the road—to regulations. The regulations are certainly the responsibility of the government, and we're hoping that we can be of assistance as we give the direction to it on behalf of the citizens who have spoken to us about some of the issues of concern to them.

Here are the issues:

— The establishment of an associated network of local boards which will guide the planning and delivery of provincial and federal labour-force development programs at the community level.

Local boards will be the joint initiative of OTAB, the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, Employment and Immigration Canada and the government of Ontario. The government anticipates that a number of the 22 local board will be established by the spring of 1993.

We're extremely concerned—I'll certainly dwell on this issue to some extent later—about the makeup of the local boards with regard to the expertise of the local industrial training boards now and the positive impacts, the training programs they've supported and the research they've done to support the training, and the tremendous working relationship they had with the business and industry communities, education communities, labour communities, within their own jurisdiction. We hope the expertise of those

members will be seriously considered as the government makes their appointments.

— The establishing of councils—which will be remunerated, by the way, paid—as subcommittees to advise the governing body. We'll be looking forward to seeing just what that means in the regulations.

— The establishment of reference groups, who will not be remunerated, for each of the labour market partners to ensure broader representation of and accountability to each partner's constituent base.

So this is pretty big. We've got the OTAB board, we now have the local boards, we have the councils that will be paid, we have the reference groups who will not be paid, and now we're saying we'll be looking to the regulations for the decision-making process which will be the voting procedures for the governing body, and we will also be looking to the regulations for the quorum for meetings of the governing body.

All of these issues I'm raising this evening will be issues that I hope that the minister will address in his opening remarks to the committee when we move into public consultation some time in January, February or March.

With regard to implementation, until a final decision is made on which programs will be transferred to OTAB, the exact OTAB budget is unknown. A rough estimate of OTAB's budget, based on the current budgets for provincial programs being considered for transfer to OTAB, is \$400 million to \$500 million. The decision to create a new management structure for training and adjustment services is distinct from the decision on how much to spend. Those decisions will continue to be made by the provincial government as part of the budget process. I underline this, because I certainly respect and approve of the fact that the provincial government has chosen not to set a specific budget but a budget that will relate to the needs for training in Ontario.

As existing government programs are gradually transferred to OTAB, we understand that their staff will transfer with them. All staff will be civil servants, as defined in the Public Service Act, and will retain their seniority and accrued benefits through continuous service with the government. Once the OTAB legislation is passed, some programs could begin to be transferred in the spring of 1993, if in fact legislation is passed that quickly, and transfer of all affected programs could take up to two years.

1800

When the minister was making his statement in the House last week and I asked him about how long it would take for this board to be up and running, he did say another 18 months. So in all honesty, we're going to be three to four years into the term of this government before we will be able to see any real training take place in our communities. I would hope that if the changes are made to the legislation that are being recommended for improvement of the legislation, perhaps you will see these partners in training working more closely together with more enthusiasm.

If we can make those kinds of changes, which I'll refer to in my discussion a little bit later, I think we could speed up that whole process as opposed to trying to meet with the resistance that appears to be out in the community right now.

The same delivery organizations will continue to deliver programs that are transferred to OTAB. However, as programs change or new services are developed, OTAB will determine how services can best be delivered in a way that achieves the best results and return on investment. I'm going to underline that in looking at apprenticeship training, they'd better be looking at very young people. I'm now talking about 13- and 14-year-olds, who have a right, if they want to, to be working in a training program and going to school at the same time.

This is something that's happening all over the world and something that should be happening here. I'm not just talking about cooperative education programs. That ought to be the opportunity for everybody. But for young people who are focusing on working in our labour markets and who want to be involved in the manufacturing community, who want to be involved in the building trades, who want to be involved in so many other areas that are so necessary to the future of this province and to the improving of our economy and basically, more importantly, to the quality of their own lives and the lives of their families, they ought to have those opportunities.

It appears that OTAB's head office will be in Toronto, and in addition some of the programs for which OTAB will take responsibility will have field offices throughout Ontario.

I notice the minister has just returned, and it's my intent to talk about the way I understand this working. It's my hope that if we have made any errors in these assumptions so far, we will hear from the ministry in that regard.

Our party has been quite concerned all along the way with regard to the process for establishing this Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, although we definitely support the government in its public consultation process; we're always looking for input. We have a great deal of appreciation for the fact that it did look at a lot of work that had been done.

I think it would be appropriate at this point in time to talk about the Premier's Council report, *People and Skills in the New Global Economy*. A lot of work did go into that. Of course, the Premier of the day was Premier David Peterson, and just to let you know, this body was an extremely important group of individuals who gave of their time: private sector, public sector, union representatives, universities and colleges. We really ought to say thank you to them for the hard work they did in putting together what most of us feel was an excellent report with recommendations that had to be taken very seriously.

I see that the member for Oxford is back in his seat. He certainly chastised the member for Timiskaming for not agreeing to follow—he'll have an opportunity to speak to what I have said later on in the evening, but it was my understanding that he's concerned the Liberals weren't taking their own good advice. That's true, but I still think I have to say to the government of the day and to the minister that this is just that, advice, and it's our responsibility to take the best advice from all sources that we either ask to support us or that choose to support us.

It's not easy. We know that. The recommendations here are indisputably important, but it is the government that

has to move on and take a look at the best news and work on it. We as elected representatives are probably some of the best advisers to each other and to the government. For those of us who are taking our job seriously, depending on our own portfolios and certainly the constituents we represent, we're a team, and I feel we should be listening to each other.

I certainly appreciate this report and I've used it many, many times as I've travelled the province in my speech-making with regard to education and training. I have to tell you there are some things in here that I don't agree with. I think that was the point the member for Timiskaming was making.

Our questions—they're not going to be new for the minister—have been: Will OTAB become focused on social policy rather than skills training and workplace issues because of its broad mandate? I think that should be of concern no matter what the ideology of this government might be. I think it's fair to say that the job of this agency is to get on with training and to make sure things happen.

Some of the objectives as described in the legislation itself are commendable and we support them, but we're not perfect and we're not going to meet everybody's needs. The bottom line is to meet the training needs of this province. To meet those training needs, our responsibility is to provide our young people with the skills, the training and the knowledge to be contributing citizens in their own communities and for their own families. So when I say, will it become focused on social policy rather than skills training? I say it in a very serious way. It's up to the government and the minister to move this agency on to the agenda, which is to train.

Why has the education community been allocated only two seats on the board? I know that's a question that will come up in public hearings again. It's been raised essentially by every group of people who are involved in any way in education. Why are the community industrial training committees and private trainers being excluded from the process? Some would say, "But they weren't excluded from the process." Unfortunately, the reason we underline that is because in the beginning, the CITCs weren't invited, even before the process began, by saying: "Tell us what you know. You're the people who are out there now."

Certainly, we know they weren't all working to the best of the expectations of the government, either the former government or this government—that was underlined in the Premier's Council report—but that doesn't mean to say that some of them weren't working well. They were. Many of the members in this House know which they are, because they happen to be working in our own ridings, in our own communities.

I think by excluding them, by not leaning heavily on them for their best advice from the very beginning and making them feel a very important, integral part of the process, which they should have been—they were excluded, for whatever reasons. Some of the reasons I'm aware of, because I've had the same letters as everybody else. I think the best reasons are documented in this report. Like anything else in life, when you've got 57 of these groups, some of them will ignore people, will leave people

out of meetings and will try to have their own agendas. That happens everywhere.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Surely not.

Mrs Cunningham: Yes, it does happen. I'm so happy to see that my colleague and friend the member for Algoma is here this afternoon. He's been so quiet and he'll continue to be, because I think what I'm saying is interesting. At least, it was interesting to the people who gave me the advice.

We do know that the CITCs and the private trainers felt they were excluded from the process. There's no point in telling them they weren't, because they're telling us they felt excluded.

What accountability measure will the government be putting in place? The minister should know that in spite of what I know about accountability—I've certainly read it into my remarks this evening and I think it's probably pretty good—I also have some questions. I did read some of them into my remarks and I would like them responded to when we get into our public meetings around this bill.

1810

The caucus is also concerned, I think, that the government will introduce a payroll tax to fund OTAB and its training programs. My view is that that can't happen during the term of this government right now, because why would one do that when the very people we're trying to get on side to support us, to whom we're reaching out to provide these programs—if you were to slap them with a training tax, I can tell you that isn't the way you get people to work on side.

It isn't something we've heard from the government itself, but it is a rumour, and I think that the minister would do well to put it to rest when he gets an opportunity. I say that seriously because I think many of the rumours that have accompanied the legislation of this government have been extremely detrimental in this province. If that one's not going to happen, just say so, because we have more important things to talk about.

Payroll taxes reduce competitiveness. We know that. There was nobody more upset than the NDP when it was in opposition, along with us, when the Liberals introduced their employer health tax. Do you remember that? Boy, you should have been here. I can still see some of my NDP colleagues who used to sit on this side of the House with me complaining about that. They talked about competitiveness, they talked about impairing job creation, they talked about hurting economic growth and they talked about putting a squeeze on small business. What can I say? Just don't introduce a payroll tax. That's what I can say.

Bill 96 raises a number of questions, and I just thought that if I raised them now, I wouldn't have to say them all over again during the hearing, so I will.

Can business and labour work effectively together? I hope so, but the current deadlock at the bipartite Workplace Health and Safety Agency demonstrates the difficulty of decision-making at joint labour-management organizations. I just hope that, having heard this from me,

the ministry will send out whomever would be responsible for solving this problem and get this whole thing sorted out, because this kind of activity going on at the same time that we're trying to set up something new that people can be excited about doesn't help the credibility of business or labour.

This agency, and I'm now talking about the workplace health and safety organization, which was created two years ago, certifies and sets training standards for the 100,000 job safety staff required in all Ontario workplaces with more than 20 employees. Instruction was to have begun last spring, but stalled because of a labour-management disagreement over how many core training hours each safety officer would receive.

I'm a little bit embarrassed, Mr Minister, to have to read this in, but I thought maybe it would give you some clout, because you're going to need it to fix this thing up.

Labour wanted 120 hours while business proposed fewer hours, in some cases as little as a few days and special consideration for low-hazard industries. We need some leadership here, Mr Minister. The dispute could not be resolved, and five of the nine business representatives have resigned. They have called for the resignation of the management cochair, arguing that he no longer represents the interests of business. The business representatives believe that the Minister of Labour leaned on the cochairman to swing his vote in favour of the adopted proposal, which creates a three-tier program ranging from a minimum of one week's training to a maximum of three weeks.

All of us have been party to these kinds of things in our lives, I'm sure, but most of us were below the age of 10, or maybe 16. These are the kinds of things that used to happen when we were all growing up. Hopefully, people mature. But the minister knows, and the Minister of Labour must clearly understand, that if these things continue somebody has to step in.

The WHSA experience has prompted John Howatson of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to demand safeguards against one group overwhelming another by the requirement of double majorities in voting. This would require a proposal to be supported by a majority of both business and labour and a majority of the complete board.

Bill 96 does not provide this safeguard. The government has left the decision-making procedures to be determined at a later date by regulation. I'm expecting, Mr Speaker, through you to the minister, that we will have serious discussions about this, because I don't think we want this to happen with this board. It would be critical. And I do think it will take the heavy hand of the minister, who I know does have a heavy hand from time to time; in fact, I wish he had a heavier one when we talk about funding. Anyway, it could have been worse, or could it? I don't know. At any rate, that's my question, number one.

Hon Mr Wildman: His hand is as delicate as a surgeon's.

Mrs Cunningham: There goes my friend from Algoma again. He wakes up every once in a while and it's always delightful to hear from him.

Second, how much will OTAB cost? The government states that the cost to operate programs under OTAB will be similar to the existing system.

The Minister of Transportation has just walked in. I know he came here to be enlightened and I welcome him to this Legislative Assembly this evening.

We're talking about the fact that OTAB will be similar to the existing system. Some savings should be possible by bringing 48 programs from 10 ministries together in a unified and more efficient organization, but these may be offset by the addition of new initiatives and activities.

The minister wasn't here when I made the point before, but I really wish he had kept this under his jurisdiction rather than setting up a schedule 4 facility, and that's where I would disagree strongly with People and Skills in the New Global Economy. I don't know whether he can allow himself some kind of flexibility around that now that they've gone so far, but I hope that at least my concerns—and I represent a lot of individuals who have raised this with me—will be discussed by him.

It might be his big stick over the next few months, because if in fact we can't get the end responsibility with the minister in some way, my guess is that we may be in for the same kind of difficulties we have with Ontario Hydro and the Workers' Compensation Board. I don't know how you'd do that, but I suppose many of us should be thinking about it, and anybody who's involved in this debate this evening ought to know that that should be a tremendous concern.

It's true that some 48 programs now being operated by some 10 ministries working together in a unified system is certainly the object we want to achieve, but whether we've got the right vehicle for it is one of the questions I'm going to be asking in many different ways during the public hearings.

But we do know thing. We know that the future cost estimates are unknown.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Are you going to use up all the time, Dianne?

Mrs Cunningham: My colleague from Chatham-Kent asks me if I'm going to use all the time, and I am. It is a long time, but because it's such an important issue, I just felt if I could put it all together in one speech, then others could probably take pieces of it; but the minister would have, hopefully, when he gets to look at it or his people do, something that's more coherent than what I'm used to doing from time to time.

Mr Hope: I just want the ability to respond to you.

Mrs Cunningham: Now my friend is telling me he wants the ability to respond, and that's fine; I can hardly wait.

In other words, we do know that the future costs are unknown. Our hope is that we'll perhaps be more efficient, but the future costs are unknown, and that's not a criticism. The government's rough estimate of OTAB's budget based on the current budgets for provincial programs being considered for transfer to OTAB is \$400 million to \$500 million.

But here's my concern, here is my criticism: This estimate, in my view, seems low, considering the fact that on October 24, 1991—can you believe this? boy—the Minister

of Skills Development signed a new \$1.6-billion Canada-Ontario labour force agreement. In the first year of the agreement, the federal government will contribute \$846 million. It's really hard to say that in this House without everybody jumping for joy, but I have to tell you, the minister was very pleased that day, and we have to give credit where credit's due. I hope that because of our efficiency and because of our success in training, we will be able to influence the federal government to have even more money, but I think if we're not efficient and we're not doing things wisely and we're wasting money, then we shouldn't be asking for more. That's a challenge that goes to the agency, as far as I'm concerned, right out there.

1820

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): Those wise sages in Ottawa, your kissing cousins.

Mrs Cunningham: The provincial government will contribute \$51 million towards training programs in Ontario and this represents an 83% increase over the amount allocated the previous year. If the Minister of Transportation thinks we're kissing cousins, well, we sure got paid for that one, didn't we? But you've got to kiss at the right time.

Interjection.

Mrs Cunningham: That's the problem. You have to make efforts where efforts are important and then you get the money. I didn't have anything to do with that. Maybe the Minister of Transportation did. Certainly the Minister of Skills Development did, and if he's kissing his cousins in Ottawa and they're kissing the Prime Minister or the government of the day, it worked, Mr Minister, keep it up. We got the money; you keep doing it.

Interjection.

Mrs Cunningham: Well, the Minister of Transportation is concerned that it was me and I had nothing to do with it. I would love to be able to stand here in the House and say I did have something to do with it, but I didn't. The government of the day did. If I were in the government I probably would have done the same thing, but I think this minister was more successful than I could have been: an 83% increase from the federal government, the Conservative federal government, to the NDP government of Ontario. Come on, that's pretty good stuff. All right. Having said that, the Minister of Transportation will probably think carefully before he accuses me of things in the future, but I shall move on.

Third, is the government creating a giant bureaucracy? I think all of Ontario is concerned about this, because we do have many giant bureaucracies. My view has been, and I've certainly made my view known, that during budget time we put our money into programs that are working and are successful and take a look at parts of government that are no longer important in that they're not providing services the public are paying their taxes for and feel are necessary. As you know, Mr Speaker, with your other hat on, you also hear from your constituents who advise us of the tremendous waste in government.

That's not what I want to talk about right now. I want to talk about huge bureaucracies that have stuck us with debts; bureaucracies that have been set up separately from

government. I'm now talking specifically about the Workers' Compensation Board, although I wish the new chairman the best of everything. I met with him last week. I hope he's going to be successful, but has he ever got a job to do, I'll tell you.

What have we got, \$10.3-billion debt that our kids have to pay, and these tremendously long periods of waiting for your compensation. Equally bad, people who have already been given these assessments are now talking about business and industry and they don't like their assessments because they think they're not fair. They wind up paying a tax in a sense of millions of dollars in some instances and it takes them months to have these appeals heard.

It's so embarrassing, but more important, it's so irresponsible. I'm not saying it's all this government's fault. Certainly the Liberals had something to do with it and so did we. But you want to be the government; you're the government. You've got five years; we'll just have to take a little look and see what happens at the end of five years.

The reason I raise it now, Mr Minister, is because we want to make certain we're not creating another WCB. I suppose I could make the same comments about Ontario Hydro, and my colleague and friend the member for London South knows exactly how we both feel about that. But I guess my point in raising Ontario Hydro is that it is an arm's-length institution, or whatever you want to call it, separate from government; the government didn't keep the kind of power it needed to make sure things were done. I'm saying to this minister that if we're going to set this OTAB up as a schedule 4 facility, which I feel is probably the biggest major problem in this whole thing, he'd better make sure in some way that he has clout, because he's going to need it. We've got lots of precedent for this.

Well, what can I say? I'm going to make my point again in case the minister missed it. There are probably about 800 civil servants currently administering training programs in Ontario, 800 now. They will be transferred to the new crown agency with all their seniority and benefits protected. No cost benefit analysis has been conducted to determine whether the training boards will simply set up another layer of bureaucracy and end up costing more than the initiatives already in place. There has been no cost analysis.

The point I'm making is, do it. The government should set up some kind of a system where it knows exactly what this cost will be, using the same number of civil servants doing the training programs in Ontario today. That's something that hasn't been done, but there is time to do it.

If the government imposed a payroll tax for training in the future, it could become another Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Board, as I've already mentioned, has a \$10.3-billion unfunded liability and satisfies no one.

How will new programs be paid for? The legislation is silent on this question. The government's discussion paper stated that the governing body would have to consider various options and determine future funding mechanisms. This will be problematic since the Ontario Federation of

Labour, which has seven seats at the table, has publicly endorsed a payroll tax for training.

How could this be? We're supposed to be asking the business community, industry, labour, education, all the training partners, to help us in training, so why would we suggest for one minute that a payroll tax for training be implemented by the Ontario Federation of Labour? It's much too premature. I hope it will never happen.

Business strongly opposes a training tax and wants investment and training to be voluntary. What I said was a rumour some half an hour ago, we now know where the rumour is coming from, that is, the Ontario Federation of Labour said it: not a very positive statement to make at a time when we're looking for cooperation.

The discussion paper outlined four funding options for future consideration:

(1) Promote success stories to encourage employers to invest in training. Some of the best success stories have been the local industrial training boards, and we didn't even invite them to talk to us before we got on with the public discussions.

(2) Sectoral or multi-employer agreements. The minister spoke of this last week. As a matter of fact, he made an announcement in the House and we reacted in a very positive way to sectoral or multi-employer agreements. I believe that one was all levels of government: the federal, provincial and municipal governments. I may be incorrect about that, but I do know it had to do with the parts industry for automotive.

Certainly, the intent of all parties working together is excellent. But even in that announcement last week I think there were some comments that I won't put on the record now, but concerns that I have, and perhaps I can do it during the public hearings on this bill.

(3) Tied aid—make access to government assistance conditional on a suitable training investment.

(4) Training tax or levy.

These are all the options for future consideration. So again we get that training tax out there. Certainly, at a time when we're trying to make an agency work we don't talk about taxing one of the sectors that we need to make the agency work, and that's the business community, small or large. It's just totally inappropriate. It's not the kind of thing you do when you're trying to get support.

There is one reference to funding in the bill. Section 21 states that OTAB may charge fees for its service in the amount fixed by regulations made under the act, but there's no definition for what type of fees would be levied, and hopefully we'll have an opportunity to discuss that again during the hearings.

Will organized labour's viewpoint—and I'm going to underline this word because I'm a little bit annoyed with this one—dominate decision-making on the board? This has been of great concern. I spoke about it with regard to one of our other agencies to do with safety in the workplace, and that was the agency that was created two years ago, the Workplace Health and Safety Agency.

Now, we don't want anybody to dominate; we want people to work together. Business is concerned that the four board members representing women, racial minorities, the

disabled and francophones will tend to vote with labour. I think when the government of the day is making the appointments it should take that into consideration when it's interviewing people. People should be there first of all to make sure training happens, not to dominate in one way or another. That's not what we're talking about here.

1830

Perhaps during the public hearings we're going to be hearing a great concern from the business community, and we may have to change the makeup of that Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, because of course I'm describing here tonight the tremendous responsibilities it has. If we can't get the confidence of the people before the legislation is passed—and I'm now talking about all the important sectors that are represented and all the people we are relying on, all the partners—we're not going to make it work. So I think we're going to have to make some changes. In fact, I know that.

The legislation provides no mechanism to ensure that the decisions taken by OTAB and the local boards are agreed upon by the majority of the two key labour market partners, business and labour. The government has left the decision-making procedures to be determined at a later date by regulation. I've already looked at the minister and raised that as a concern, and I'm sure he'll be taking my comment seriously.

My next question is this: Who will represent the 70% of Ontarians who are not unionized? Mr Speaker, you will probably remember that the minister made the announcement of this legislation in the House last week, and in my response I raised this initially and certainly with some enthusiasm, because it is a tremendous concern to the workers of the province. They made this point during the hearings and we haven't addressed it.

Organized labour will have a major role in shaping the province's future training programs, as it had been allocated eight seats on the board; the Ontario Federation of Labour has been allocated seven seats, while the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario has one seat. Organized labour represents only one third of the province's workforce and the Ontario Federation of Labour only a portion of that. Who will represent the views of the majority of the province's workers?

I have a lot of information for the government this afternoon so I'm not going to dwell on that, but that one is probably worthy of an hour's speech on its own, because the majority of the province's workers are not organized and not one of them will be represented as part of the labour vote.

I think, really, it's quite ignorant of the government to ignore that particular statistic in Ontario today. If we're looking for people to work together to make decisions so that we can have training, we're going to have to take a look at that. It's not only ignorant, because they haven't even listened; it's ignorant because quite frankly, to ignore the makeup of one's workforce when looking for representation of it, is something that can only be attributed to the ideology of the government as opposed to the common sense needed for this to work in a very non-partisan way.

I say that with a degree of confidence, because at the time everybody knows that the government is being blamed for some of the decisions with regard to its own ideology. I hate to even talk about it, because so many of the solutions to today's problems in Ontario will require all ideologies, all viewpoints and all parties to agree. I think the minister must have been put under some tremendous pressure in that regard, and I think that's too bad. It doesn't speak very well of his party and his government with regard to some common sense.

Number 7, will OTAB be an instrument for introducing social change? The objectives outlined in section 4 include the following statements:

"4(1)5 To seek to ensure that publicly funded labour force development programs and services, in the context of the competitive Canadian and global economies and in the context of a fair and just society, lead to the enhancement of the skill levels, productivity, quality, innovation and timeliness and the improvement of the lives of workers and potential workers."

It's a pretty big statement, a lot of big words.

Paragraph 10 says, "To identify and seek to eliminate systemic and other discriminatory barriers to the full and effective participation of disadvantaged and under-represented groups in labour force development programs and services."

In carrying out its objectives OTAB shall, according to clause 4(2)(a), "operate in a manner that is consistent with the economic and social policies, including labour market policies, of the government of Ontario."

It would be no news to my colleagues in this House or my constituents in London North that I certainly support the intent of the clauses I have just read into the record, but I can tell you right now that there are concerns. The concern that was put to us by the business community is that the mandate is too broad, promising improvements in the lives of workers. The most important improvement in the life of any worker is to have a good job and the most important improvement in today's society is that a citizen who wants to work becomes a worker. Therefore, if we make the mandate of this agency unrealistic, then we're not going to get the training done that we need to in order to do the work that's required in Ontario. If this is a concern, perhaps it should be discussed in committee.

Labour, on the other hand, would of course argue that the clause is crucial to ensure that workers' needs and not just employers' needs are met. If something is going to work, the employer is certainly going to be setting out what his needs are. If the worker wants the employer and the business to function and be productive, so that everybody has a job and people are employed, of course the employers' and the employees' needs are met. But let's make sure that we look at that objective in context with the wording in section 4 and make sure the mandate is responsible.

I will say that John Howatson, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association representative on the steering committee, wants a guarantee that private sector training will be OTAB's priority for the first five years. Here we're talking about the Canadian Manufacturers' Association

giving advice to the government, which I'm sure it will add to during the hearings.

Question number 8 is, what will be the relationship between OTAB and the 22 local boards? The government has provided no details. The establishment of a network of local boards will be done in the future by regulation, but that doesn't mean to say we can't discuss it at committee. Will OTAB be able to override local decision-making by withholding local training funding? Will local boards be responsive to local needs if OTAB assumes centralized decision-making powers? These are questions to be answered.

Why is the existing training infrastructure being abandoned? The 22 local boards will replace 57 community industrial training committees, the CITCs as they are commonly called, and the expertise of all CITC members will not be utilized—at least so far we don't think it will be—as the number of boards shrink from 57 to 22. There is no guarantee that CITC members will be nominated by their labour market partners to the new local boards. CITC staff will not be protected and therefore will have to apply to the local boards for employment.

I hope the minister will ask for a report on this, especially where the local boards are working. I hope he will say to his people, "How many of those good boards have employees who have now been not only nominated but appointed to local training boards?" We need their expertise and they've done a good job. How will a total revamp, I ask the minister, of the training infrastructure that's out there now allow us to build further on what is already working?

Given what's happened so far, I have to tell you that we don't need to reinvent the wheel. If something's working, let's just build on it. If it's not broken, don't fix it. The only way we can ensure any continuity right now is through people, and it's extremely important that this be done.

Will private sector trainees be restricted from competing for a share of the training delivery business? We're all getting letters on this, and we will raise these concerns during committee. I can tell you right now that private sector trainers, without this board, are being left out in the cold. We'll give some examples.

1840

Private vocational schools fear they will be excluded in the future. The Ontario Federation of Labour has recommended that private educators and trainers be excluded from membership on the boards and be prohibited from providing training to recipients of government funding. That's totally irresponsible. It's like, "Be my partner when I need you, but when I don't need you, I don't want you for a partner." How can we proceed with that kind of attitude? Why would anybody, especially the Ontario Federation of Labour, which this government is relying on for its assistance, make these kinds of statements that only cause difficulty for the minister and the government in that nobody believes the government's going to do anything unless organized labour, the Ontario Federation of Labour, makes recommendations?

Imagine recommending that private educators and trainers be excluded from membership on the boards,

especially when they have been excluded in the membership of the main training advisory board. I can't believe it. But perhaps the federation of labour will be speaking to this and we'll have an opportunity to ask them ourselves.

Why were no significant changes made to OTAB's governing body? It beats me, I have to tell you right now. I can't believe it. During the consultations on the discussion paper the government was constantly told that the education community was underrepresented on the governing body, and did they do anything about it? No, they did not.

The construction trades are also dissatisfied with their representation, considering the fact that they currently deliver 45% to 50% of apprenticeship programs—the construction trades do this—and have requested that the construction sector have its own board. They're dissatisfied with their representation on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, and they've asked for their own board.

What a beginning we're having here: pretty discouraging, and from all sides, too. Local volunteers who have contributed to the CITC process and private trainers argue they should not be excluded.

Despite the many arguments put forward, the government did not alter its preferred structure for the governing body—at least it didn't alter it very much.

The last question I have here is, why focus on OTAB when existing training programs are not working?

In April the Treasurer promised that the Jobs Ontario Training fund would create an equivalent of 10,800 full-time jobs within 12 months. It's been revealed that the three-year, \$1-billion program has provided jobs for only 675 people since it was announced in the budget. I believe the minister should be looking very seriously at the Jobs Ontario Training fund and find out why that's not working. A billion dollars—can you believe that?—over three years, and only 675 people have in fact taken advantage of this program.

The waiting time for application approval for the Transitions program—Mr Speaker, you will know that I asked the Minister of Labour this question today. This is a program that assists older workers, people 45 years of age and older, to get retraining. As a person who wants training, if you're over 45, the waiting time to have your application approved has gone from six weeks to 34 weeks since this minister took over as Ontario's Minister of Labour. That's in spite of the fact that he stood in the House today and said, "We've put more money into it." If he's put more money into it and he's got more people assisting, why is it taking so long?

There needs to be a very close scrutiny of that Transitions program. By the way, it's not new; it didn't work under the Liberals, either. But it should be looked at. None of us should have to go to our constituents and say, "If you apply today you may get some training in August, and isn't it too bad that in the meantime you'll lose your benefits." That's really wrong.

If that one's not working, let's find one that will. Let's find another way of having people, within a few weeks of unemployment, get trained. The program's not working. Scrap it and get another one, or tell us what's wrong with it and fix it. There isn't anybody in the House who would

disagree with that. It's just common sense. But to stand up and defend it and say—what did he say?—"It fell prey to its own success" or something. I don't know what it was, but it wasn't very smart, or responsible.

A 34-week waiting period means that Ontario's unemployed will exhaust UI benefits and be sentenced to welfare before being given a chance to upgrade their skills. What else can I say with regard to that program?

But at the same time, we're here to speak to OTAB. I want to take the time to tell the minister that there are certain individuals out there who are more attached to his government's philosophy than my own. One certainly would be—although I really enjoy this person's company and we've certainly had some discussions in the past, and we've actually tried to make some time in the future but haven't done very well—Mr Wilson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

On March 18, 1992, less than a year ago, when we were getting out on the discussion of the OTAB and the local training boards, he actually sent a letter out to the heads of union, staff representatives and labour council affiliates. The inference in this letter was, don't worry about attending the hearings because—and I'm going to quote it—"it is essential for everyone to realize that these meetings have no official status whatsoever. Nothing about the membership, operations or structure of local training boards can be decided at these meetings."

It's my understanding that the meetings he was referring to—and I won't quote this whole document—were the hearings. They were referred to as meetings that were taking place across Ontario. He goes on to say: "It's already been agreed to by both the federal and Ontario governments that representatives on local boards will be chosen by their own constituents exclusively. In the case of labour, this means that the local board members will be chosen by the Ontario Federation of Labour and the provincial building trades council in consultation with our affiliates and local labour councils."

I have to tell you that I was very disappointed when this was brought to my attention, because I had hoped that the government was looking for input from everyone. The real message that went out that I felt was so destructive to the process was that we were only looking for input on the local boards as opposed to the makeup of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board itself. We found out after a few weeks of course that the minister, because of questions in the House—he did respond to my questions—said, "We're looking for input for everything." But the carrier pigeons out there who were supposed to be taking the message from the government, in my view, were either not well informed or were simply not fulfilling their responsibilities in talking about local training boards being the only issue in discussion. I had to put that on the record, because I was very concerned about it at the time and I continue to be concerned about it.

In response to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board itself, many groups appeared before the committee, and I congratulate all of them for taking the time to let the government know of their concerns, because in this democratic process I think all of us recognize that we're looking

for the best advice and information we can get. I'm sorry that the government didn't respond in a more meaningful way, because there were many local board consultation meetings. There you go: Local Board Consultation Meetings. Even the title of the document gave the impression that we were just talking about local boards. I don't know, but there were an awful lot of them all across the province of Ontario. I think there were probably as many as 30, maybe more than that, in Ottawa, Mississauga, York, London, Belleville, certainly Sarnia and Georgian Bay, Sault Ste Marie—I could go on—Kingston, Metropolitan Toronto, Oshawa, all over the province.

1850

This particular presentation prepared by the London Chamber of Commerce I felt was indicative of the other chambers across the province, although I have to give it credit because it did make a different brief, as opposed to other organizations which I won't mention. Under their comments about education, and this is coming from a group of people who represent the London community, they said this:

"It is important to remember that workplace training does not exist in isolation from our formal education system." I started on this note and I want to end on it. "Successfully establishing a lifelong learning culture depends in large measure on the effectiveness of the job done by our elementary, secondary and post-secondary educational systems. In our opinion, that job has not been done well."

I will just diverge a bit. It's my view that we have known of the significant and important need of apprenticeship training systems in Ontario where the education community should be so much a part of it. We simply haven't responded. I will say I'll be looking for success on the part of this government in that regard, but it's going to have to get control of the training agenda in cooperation with, but separate from, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, because I feel that this kind of direction has to come from the government itself. We cannot wait. The school systems are going to need a total overhaul of delivery when it comes to training, and apprenticeship training especially. I just have to say I don't hear anything like that coming from the Education minister of the day.

I'm going to quote from the brief from the London Chamber of Commerce again because I hope all of you have groups such as this in your community that give you the best advice they can, and that are there because they care.

"At the same time that training in Ontario has developed into a patchwork of programs and individual private initiatives, the educational system has produced results that are unsatisfactory. Our dropout rate is a national embarrassment. Math and science achievement levels of our students are poor at best. Levels of functional illiteracy are unacceptable. Our education system is in such sad shape that the Ministry of Education is even afraid to have students tested to establish a comparative measure of achievement."

Interjection.

Mrs Cunningham: No, it isn't now, but when they wrote this it was. This was April 1992, and I think it was after this that the government said it would participate in

the national testing. I think I'm right in that regard. I'm talking to the member, but I'm sure he'll make his remarks succinct and I'll be able to respond to them later. We both agree, I think, that the comment is of great concern or it wouldn't be written here.

They say the Ministry of Education is afraid to have students tested to establish a comparative measure of achievement. There may in fact have been a different way of saying that, but we all have our opportunity because we get invited to the chamber once a year. So if anybody doesn't like what they wrote, we should be telling them. However, I support their statements.

"Employers seeking to invest in training find they must often take on the task of teaching both math and reading literacy before they can start job-related training."

This has been a criticism of employers right across Ontario for a very long period of time, and especially in the last 20 years, when so much new technology has been implemented in the workforce. We're making so many demands on our employees when we have lost the types of entry level jobs for people that we had in the past, especially in the business community, because of automation and technology.

I think the complaints are real and I think there are reasons for it, but we all know that our education system has tremendous weaknesses. If we were, of course, to move in the direction that I feel the public that responded to our consultation process took, we would be making tremendous gains in providing quality education to the young people in Ontario, both in our elementary and secondary schools. I'll speak to that in just a moment.

"There is no question that change is required in training in Ontario." This is from the London chamber. "Any change must be well thought out, not cobbled together to meet short-term political agendas. Change must bring efficiency and flexibility."

Then they go on to talk about the OTAB proposal, because of course this paper was delivered. It was probably very difficult for them to deliver it in five minutes; that's all they got. That, by the way, which I didn't speak to, was one of the great weaknesses of the process. Although I spoke to people who sat on these committees, they said it improved in time. It could have improved after the first week, if in fact they had listened to what was coming out of southwestern Ontario, because that's where they started and nobody was happy. They finally got smart after a few meetings, but they could have been smart a lot sooner if they had listened to us.

They say that they had "fundamental concerns regarding the proposal to establish the Ontario training advisory board." They talk about the structure and they talk about it being wrong. I've already given you those concerns and so I will only say, look back on the record and you'll see what they said, because their comments had tremendous influence on my remarks earlier.

Local boards: They talk about how "a systems approach to training is appropriate. We believe that alternatives exist to the proposed geographical approach outlined in this report" that they were responding to. They then give, "For example, industry-wide training and certification may be

more appropriate than geographical structures." I have to say that the minister's already thinking about that. "Industry-wide training and certification may be more appropriate than geographical structures."

I'd like the minister to respond to that statement during the public hearings and tell me how that can happen, because I think it is happening in some way. Then I can go back to the London chamber and say, "This is how the minister's going to deal with that concern," because I think there has to be a balance of different approaches, even though the board and the local boards are set up on a geographical basis. I think that can be set up within the board.

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): The auto parts initiative, for example.

Mrs Cunningham: I know the minister is going to answer that question right now; I can just tell.

I would like to go on and talk about some of the other responses on the education and training, from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario and then again from the labour community. I don't have a lot of time, so you'll have to bear with me.

Before I end, though, you can be assured that I'm going to direct the minister again to A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, which is our New Directions Volume 2. I think that certainly in our role in opposition it's our responsibility to draw to the attention of the government the weaknesses as we see them and the criticisms as they are presented to us by members of the public, but I think it's also important to give the government, and in this case the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Skills Development, some good advice and present some solutions. I think that we've tried to do that in our document A Blueprint for Learning in Ontario, New Directions. we specifically talk about OTAB and training and overhauling the apprenticeship programs.

By the way, this information and good advice was given to us by people who actually asked to have input into this process, not representing any special group, but individuals and especially parents, individual teachers and trainers, representatives of colleges and universities and above all, and I think you'd be really interested in this, students, because they're very concerned about the education system and what's lacking in it, especially the colleges and universities, the students who attend there. When they pay for their tuition and they've earned that money themselves or even, sadly, when they are getting money through loans or grants, especially loans they have to pay back, they want excellence and they want to have something at the end of it.

We talk about income support and training banks, labour markets, research and opportunity equity. I'm sure that some of the members of the government must wonder about the Conservatives when we talk about opportunity equity, but it is important to us. Therefore, I just wanted to mention that we do have some suggestions for the minister in this regard.

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The Ontario Public School Boards' Association: While it supports "in principle a system of provincial and local training and adjustment boards, it has a number of concerns regarding the legislation," and I'm going to read them. In spite of what the minister said, and I think everybody in this House knows the respect I have for the minister, I have to say that he may think the partners in training were consulted appropriately, but they don't all agree with him.

They say:

"School boards have not been adequately recognized as key players in labour force development in Ontario; they must be represented on provincial and local training and adjustment boards.

"The OTAB legislation has been drafted in isolation from a comprehensive provincial policy on labour force development and lifelong learning."

I think that's a criticism. I think it's something we can do, though, because although we're talking about training, and I talked about the responsibilities of that training board, we did leave out, in a sense, the input. We know there will be input, but we did not discuss this part of the training in cooperation with the training we expect from elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities, which may or may not be separate from our objective, and that's to train.

I think that's worthy. That's something the Minister of Education should be doing in cooperation with the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Skills Development. We should take a look at OTAB, what role it's got, and what's left out that will be then the responsibility of school boards.

"The OTAB legislation does not adequately deal with the issues of accountability and openness.

"Funding for the training and adjustment board has not been addressed"—this is from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

"The proposed OTAB structure does not build on existing infrastructures and is not based on careful needs analysis or an examination of existing programs and delivery agencies." I think the minister should look to that and be prepared to respond to it.

"Implementation issues have not been adequately addressed; the role of the federal, provincial and local governments are not clear and the relationship between the provincial body and local training and adjustment boards has not been clarified; and"—what I said in the very beginning—"too many details are being left to regulations."

Now, what does the OSSTF say?

"OSSTF is concerned with the minimal recognition in the OTAB/LTAB consultation documents, and in the proposed structures, of the significant role of the public education system in the provision of lifelong learning opportunities through adult and continuing education programs." This is where I feel the minister's going to have to have some kind of public consultation with respect to how OTAB fits in with school boards, both elementary and secondary programs.

The OSSTF reminds us that:

"Adults make up between 20% and 30% of students in Ontario public secondary schools. In 1989, 55,000 adults were enrolled in secondary day school, 267,000 in continuing education and correspondence courses and 187,000 in adult and continuing education courses. These enrolments are increasing by between 10% and 15% each year."

They go on to tell how the school systems are working, and they also have some recommendations:

"That school boards have direct representation on the OTAB apprenticeship reform council"—this is OSSTF recommendation number 1.

(2) "That school boards be designated 'public institutions' in future Canada-Ontario labour force development agreements;"

(3) "That school boards continue to retain their exclusive right and responsibility to provide secondary school credits and diplomas;"

(4) "That school boards, as an education/trainer agency, continue to have the right to provide a variety of adult continuing education and youth vocational, job entry and apprenticeship programs based on"—and I underline—"community needs."

The OSSTF goes on to make other recommendations I don't have time to read into the record, but that I will give to the minister today and that I will make certain I read into the record at the time of the public hearings. If I don't do it, I will encourage them to do it themselves.

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario:

"The proposed governing structure and implementation process of OTAB should be modified as follows:

"Youth, particularly disadvantaged youth, should have formal representation on OTAB's governing structure by ensuring that at least one of the four social action/community representatives also reflects the interests of disadvantaged youth;

"Criteria for nominating representatives for OTAB councils should be public; nominations should be based on demonstrated competence, knowledge and experience in those training and adjustment issues relevant to a particular council;

"In recognition of the central role and responsibilities of the colleges of applied arts and technology in Ontario's training system, the colleges should be full voting members on the OTAB board, its councils and all local board governing structures.

"That firm specifications for tendering, monitoring and evaluating program and service outcomes be established by OTAB for...the local boards."

Labour: There was a joint submission by labour and management representatives of the construction industry and they said:

"The current high standards of training now characteristic to Ontario's construction industry could be seriously threatened under such a restructuring."

Now we're talking about the eight labour representatives, with seven nominated by the Ontario Federation of Labour and one nominated by the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario.

"The discussion paper, as well as the Premier's Council report that preceded it, make it clearly evident that the need for a major restructuring of Ontario's approach to skills training and adjustment arose as a result of the industrial sector's deficiencies in their approach to and investment in skills training as opposed to the need for improvements in the construction industry.

"Yet the discussion paper proposes an OTAB approach that would result in the construction industry being combined structurally and financially with the industrial sector. Such a move threatens to severely deteriorate the level of quality in training our industry has maintained to date."

They go on to say:

"As noted in the Premier's Council report, some 45%-50% of all apprenticeship training activity in the province is construction industry focused. Recent statistics generated by the Ministry of Skills Development's apprenticeship branch report that in 1990, 48.3% of all active regulated trades apprentices and 37% of all holders of certificates of qualification in Ontario were from the construction industry." We need their help. "Under the OTAB structure being proposed however, construction would have only one of the eight votes on all matters brought before OTAB and its local bodies.

"As opposed to the industrial sector, the construction industry has long recognized the important role investment in training plays in generating a competitive edge. It is estimated that some \$30 million was contributed by the construction industry towards training in 1990 alone, along with the tens of thousands of hours of on-the-job apprenticeship training." And we're talking about a training tax? Give me a break. "The construction industry is not in need of a special new employer training levy or multi-industry benchmark funding approaches that are suggested in the discussion paper.

"For these reasons, along with the fact that the construction industry is a unique industry requiring unique approaches to training, we maintain that your restructuring plans must include a separate training and adjustment board for construction."

I'm sure that will be considered seriously by the government, because this is a group that we need on side and we know why it's not there. I hope that will be dealt with.

In conclusion and finally, I hope the remarks we have put on the record this afternoon have been helpful, both to the minister and his staff and to the government of the province of Ontario. They were put forward in good faith and they were put forward because these are the questions that have been raised by all our constituents right across Ontario.

Certainly, in my role as critic for Colleges and Universities, Education and Skills Development, it is my great hope and desire that the public hearings, which will take place, it is my understanding, if we're successful, during our next break, will be helpful and that the government will listen to those who take the time to come before us in this great democratic process that we all enjoy. Thank you for this opportunity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): I thank the honourable member for her contribution to the debate. Questions and/or comments?

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I'm glad the member for Timiskaming is back in the House. I want to say that I thought the member for London North presented a lot of issues, a lot of questions, a lot of concerns, and I think that's valid. I don't want anyone to think from my previous comments—to the member for Timiskaming—that I was trying to undermine that process of raising concerns.

I guess the difference I saw in the member for London North's comments was that she wasn't saying she is rejecting the OTAB model as a whole. She is expressing concerns about how the model has been developed and may want to see some changes to it, whereas I got the distinct impression from the member for Timiskaming that his caucus wants to reject the model outright. I think that's what I see as a key difference here in terms of delaying getting a comprehensive training process in place.

I'd be interested to hear from the member for London North, though, on a couple of her issues. She talked about the role of private sector training. She also talked about the role of colleges. Does she see a conflict between those two in terms of her support for ensuring a greater role for private sector training versus the fact that, as we now know, colleges are doing a very good job?

She also made quite extensive comments about community industrial training committees, the CITCs. I certainly know that in my riding the local CITC has done a very good job in its area. But I think it's important that people realize in the overall debate that the mandate of CITCs has been very specific: industrial training. My sense of what OTAB is to be is that it is to be far more comprehensive, to take us into areas of training in new areas—for example, the retail sector—and all kinds of other sectors that the CITCs simply do not have the mandate to do.

I want to compliment the member for raising a lot of issues and for what I think is overall support for the model, but maybe some concerns as to how it's actually administered.

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The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Hope: It's a pleasure to comment on the member for London North's speech that was delivered. I would agree in some areas and in some areas I don't agree.

One of the areas I do agree with which she brought out was around the apprenticeship training program. That program, if anything, has received a total failing mark on behalf of the business community and the labour movement because I don't think it has accomplished its objectives. I think what we have to do, and it's through the initiatives the minister puts through the sector partner training funds that are available now, which the independent parts suppliers have put together—I think that is one area where we should look at the apprenticeship, because we have to meet the needs of the businesses. One of the reasons a lot of businesses do not enter under that program is that as soon as they do the training of the skilled workers, the Big Three automakers walk in and take over the tradespeople.

The other area I know the member for London North would have wanted to bring out—she mentioned about 22 local boards, but I know that she knows the St Clair region would be better served if it was divided into two regions, and it would encompass Essex and Kent counties, because there is a diversity in those two communities. I know she maybe forgot during her long speech, but I'm sure she would have wanted to bring that issue out because she knows how important it is, and also, being the critic, she is very reflective of all of the province. I know she would like to bring that out as putting the dividing line between Essex and Kent counties so that those two boards can separate and create a board to represent their community needs.

One of the other issues that was brought up was around why educators aren't so much involved. I know through a lot of the reports is, who's driving the change of education? It's the labour movement and the business community in order to meet the needs of competitiveness. I think under OTAB the key element is labour and business working together and bringing educators along.

We all shrug this change, but I think this is a positive change. If we could get on with it, we could make major improvements in the province of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I just wanted to comment briefly in the two minutes I have on the comments made by the member for London North, a member who has had a positive attitude with regard to skills development over her years here in this Legislature and has put forth many ideas and many recommendations. I can still see her daily on the TV saying, "Let's get on with it." That's been her favourite line for quite a while when we're talking about skills development and jobs for people.

But she did mention briefly about the concerns with regard to the 22 boards within the province, and the concerns with regard to the responsibility of the field offices and with regard to the budget, which is unknown. She has raised the issues with regard to the only two seats on the board from education, she's raised the issue with regard to private trainers being excluded from the process and she's raised the issue with regard to accountability with regard to what the government is putting in place.

So when we look at the whole aspect of skills development in this OTAB board that's being appointed by the government, for years we had thought that was to be the goal of the 22 or 23 colleges in the system, to provide the training, to provide the initiative for people to be able to get skills training. I don't know what happened to that, but somewhere along the line it didn't seem to fulfil the commitment that those colleges and universities were supposed to put before the people, and I'm sure the minister would be aware of the concerns that have been raised in the community with regard to the programs. Skills development has never been satisfactory, and what we want here is not just a bunch of talk with regard to the 18 months it's going to take, but actions and jobs.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? If not, I'll call on the member for London North. You have two minutes to make a response.

Mrs Cunningham: First of all, I'll respond to the member for Oxford, who I've always reminded that when he grows up he'll be a Conservative, but that's beside the point.

He's correct in that I am not rejecting the model outright. I think there have been some tremendous gains made during these consultations, but I am always sad to say that sometimes people remember the negative parts more, and certainly the education community is underrepresented on the main board.

Really, the greatest criticism of all is that, with a workforce of some 65% of our workers who are not organized, there could have been some nod of the head in their direction. All of us have received letters where people have said, "Well, if you want to be represented, join a union." I don't think that's the intent of this government, and I would hope that it will be able to reflect that after the public hearings.

I'd also like to say to the member for Chatham-Kent that I never thought I'd stand in this House and say that he's articulate, but he was this evening. I would also like to say that I did forget that and that I will support him with his St Clair region problem. I will speak to the minister on his behalf, even though he sits closer to the minister than I do; it's not a long walk. But if he wants Essex and Kent counties separate, then I'm going to support him because I know that his constituents have been lobbying him in that regard.

Just in the end, I'd like to say that I would hope that this government is learning over the period of time that it has been in government. They have been accused of not listening, but we do in fact have an opportunity in the next few weeks after the break. I hope we will be making changes as a result of public consultation with the elected representatives, because as I will underline, we haven't had an opportunity to listen to the public on this issue, and we will, as members of whichever committee it's being referred to. I look forward to those discussions.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): It is with great pleasure that I have an opportunity to participate in the debate because, as many people would know, this particular model about OTAB, maybe not this particular one, but the concept anyway, is one that we as a province have been trying to work on for probably a number of years, way before we even came along.

A little bit of credit, I think, should be given to the former government, under the leadership of Mr Peterson, which at least allowed the opportunity through the Premier's Council at the time in order to bring people together from the employer groups, from the labour unions and from people in the educational field to start to have a discussion about what training should look like in the 1990s and after the year 2000 in the province of Ontario, recognizing that training is becoming much more of an important role for employers and unions to get involved in.

It's the very concept of training that is probably very paramount to the very existence as far as the economy of today.

We take a look at what's happening in the economy of Ontario. Like in other economies around the world, there is much more competitiveness out there because we are a global marketplace. I think over the years what we've seen is that maybe 20 or 30 years ago, an economy such as the Ontario economy or the Canadian economy or the American economy could isolate itself to a certain degree and basically try to remain that way. But now, with the advent of better communications, better means of transportation etc., we've seen that economy expand to the point that we're no longer just regional economies.

We have to compete—for example, in the mining sector or forestry or manufacturing—with other jurisdictions around the world. If we take a look at mining from where I come from, Timmins, we sell gold at a world price. We have to compete not so much for our share of the market, but for the competitiveness as a whole industry against places like South Africa, places in South America.

We here in Canada, and more specifically in Ontario, need to find a way that we have a competitive edge against our competitors. I think one of the ways that we do that—it's not the only way, but I think one of the key ways—is that we ensure that we have the most knowledgeable and well-trained workforce available in a free market society. I think any economy that strives to get to that point is obviously going to come out on top when it comes to being able to compete with anybody.

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Bill 96, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, as I said, is an act that is crucial for the economy of Ontario. But let's take a look at the purpose of this act. I just want to read the preamble in terms of the purpose of the act, because I think it's something that people need to remember when we're getting into this debate.

I'll just read a couple of passages:

"To enable business and labour, together with educators, trainers and representatives of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, to play a significant role in the design and delivery of labour force development programs and services;

"To give Ontario's employers, workers and potential workers access to publicly funded labour force development programs and services that will, in the context of the competitive Canadian and global economies and in the context of a fair and just society, lead to the enhancement of skill levels, productivity, quality, innovation and timeliness and the improvement of the lives of workers and potential workers."

Basically, that is the whole ball of wax in terms of what this legislation and OTAB are all about. OTAB is saying that it recognizes the fundamental importance in terms of training of involving the partners, and those are the people who need the training in regards to their industry and the people who actually go out and do the work. What it recognizes is the building of a partnership between those two groups, along with the professionals in the field of education, to deliver programs that will specifically target the needs of industry and the needs of workers.

What we see here is a bringing together under OTAB, for example, of employers and unions in equal number, along with other people within the training realm, to talk about what we really need to do in order to accomplish good objectives in regards to training for our workforce. Now, it's not to say that what we had in the past was all wrong, because clearly there are training systems in the colleges and universities and even secondary schools where they offer training in workplaces in order to better equip the workplace. But what was really lacking was a concentrated effort as far as policy is concerned that would deliver training specifically targeted to the needs of industries.

I'll speak from two experiences I've had in the past, first as a former worker in the gold mines of northern Ontario, specifically in Timmins, the Pamour group under Noranda, the McIntyre mine and others I worked at. Those companies I came to, at the beginning worked very much in the old mode of doing things. The way we approached the question of training was to bring somebody into the workplace and say, "This is where your workplace is, this is the person you're going to work with and go out and do the best you can." Workers to a large extent were really left on their own to develop the training they needed to properly do their jobs.

In the economy of 20 to 25 years ago—10 years ago, even—it wasn't as crucial an issue, because there was a lot of buffer when it came to the profitability of companies because we didn't have the type of competition that we have today. If we had workforces that were not as well-trained as what they might be today and what they would be in the future under OTAB, it wasn't as important to the industry as a whole.

But what I saw in the workplace I came to when I first started in this particular place, where I apprenticed as an electrician starting back around 1979, was that it was really a haphazard approach to how we trained our workers and our journeymen. Neither the apprentice nor the electrician nor the employer really had a direct say about the type of things the apprentice should be learning in order to do a better a job and be more competitive and better understand the whole aspect of what his or her job was all about.

Consequently, I think what came out of that is that, yes, we developed through our old system a lot of good competent tradespeople, but when you compared them to other economies in the world such as Germany and other places, there was always that argument that they had a system of apprenticeship that was much better than ours. It was very much recognized, especially in the apprenticeship fields.

The other example I had was that I had the privilege and I would say the honour of working in a program called BEST, basic education for skills training. This was a program that was started by the Ontario Federation of Labour, sponsored by the previous Liberal government—I think initially it was funded under Skills Development and then eventually Education—where we approached training from the concept of empowering both workers and employers to develop training specific to their workplace, but when it came to basic skills. The example I learned there was that if you can bring together—

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I don't believe the government is maintaining a quorum in the House.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the clerk if he would endeavour to check on that.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is not present, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Call in the members.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: A quorum is now present, Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: I call on the honourable member for Cochrane South to continue his remarks.

Mr Bisson: There's no such thing as a non-partisan debate inside this Legislature. That's fairly evident from the member across.

Anyway, as I was saying, the question of how we approach training under that particular program was to bring together workers, bring together their trade union, bring together the employer at the same table and to talk about developing training when it came to basic skills, such as reading and writing, arithmetic, so that the workers at least can prepare themselves to get on to other forms of training within the workplace and, in some cases, when plants were closing down, to be able to access other systems of training.

But the one thing we learned with that particular system was that it was very effective when you brought those partners together. I can speak from personal experience as a program coordinator in northeastern Ontario where I've had some successes and some failures in adapting those programs to the workplaces of northern Ontario, and those places that were successful, bar none, were those places where you built up those partnerships and where you empowered both the employer and the employee in a stake of making the training program work.

In the end, when you got both of those partners together and together you worked at, first of all, identifying the need within your workplace and, second, after that going out and talking to people within the workplace who were illiterate so that they understand the issues of literacy and recognize that because you can't read and write doesn't mean to say that you're not intelligent. It just means to say you're lacking a skill, just like I can't weld or, Mr Speaker, as you may not be able to paint.

Then after that, when we were out there together, talking and educating within the workplace about the issue of literacy, the employer, together with the trade union, would go into the workplace and say, "It's all right to come forward and to say that you need training when it comes to being able to upgrade your literacy skills."

I'll tell you why the worker came forward, Mr Speaker. Nine times out of 10 it was because they saw the security in coming forward, because both the employer and their union had endorsed this program and had worked together in making sure that this program was made available to the worker.

When the worker actually got into a program and started learning about literacy needs in regard to his or her workplace materials, what affected his or her daily life in

regard to what was found at work and found in their lives around them—such as writing a cheque, balancing their own bank account, reading signs within the workplace, reading panels within the workplace to be able to operate equipment, production manuals—we utilized and developed a system of training based on the needs of the worker. Why? Because we, the employees, through the union, and the employers, either through the representation at the management level or within their associations, understood what the needs of the worker were.

This is much of what we're talking about OTAB. It is building those kinds of partnerships over a greater scale across the province of Ontario. Clearly, if you bring together those two partners, the people the training is actually addressed to, they are best in a situation to tell you what those needs are and to develop programs that have a methodology and have a system which understand the needs of workers and understands to a certain extent the politics of the workplace.

I think with a model like that you cannot go wrong, because I have lived through the experience of having programs similar to the models of what we talk about under OTAB and, I'll tell you, when it works, it works with flying colours. I think we only need to take a look at modern industrial economies in places like Europe and even in places in the Pacific Rim, such as Japan, where they've taken this kind of approach and they're doing an excellent job when it comes to being able to train their workers so that they can be a lot more competitive.

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As a matter of fact, I was listening to the debate just previously, and debates before that about the whole question about the ability of the government to be able to put something like this together.

I would like to put one thing on the record, and I think it is something that hasn't been said up to this point. The country of Holland for 10 years has been trying to put together a program like this, 10 years, and just now, recently, they've managed after 10 years to bring together the partners, to get government involved because they are the leaders in this, to put together a program which would be very similar to what we have here in OTAB. They did that in 10 years. It took this government less than two years. I think that speaks a lot for the ability of the minister. It speaks a lot for the ability of the people within the government, and yes, within the civil service, working on behalf of the people of Ontario to bring the kind of programs that we need to deal with the economy of today.

The point is that it's an NDP government that did this. I'll be partisan to a certain extent because I have listened to the debate from the member for London North. I have listened to the debate from the member for Timiskaming. There is a stark difference between the two comments that were made in regard to the debates.

The member for London North at least approached the debate on the sense of dealing with the issues and spoke about her concerns in regard to how she would like to see OTAB improved. In debate like that we can't go wrong, because we as government members listen to what members like the member for London North have to say and we

participate in this process in order to make legislation much better here within the legislature and when we go into the committee level.

But when we see the kind of approach that happened, unfortunately, with the member for Timiskaming, it was completely a negative thing. There was nothing in this thing that made any sense. There was nothing in OTAB that was worth even mentioning and talking about that was something that was to be seen as positive. I think that really detracts from the job that we have here as legislators, in order to make sure that we deal with the issues at hand.

Yes, there is time for party politics. There is time for political jabs. But I think there are certain times when we have the responsibility as legislators to stay away from that and deal with the issues at hand. For the Liberal caucus of Ontario to take the position of opposing OTAB when it was the very government that started this process, I really need to wonder. It's quite unfortunate.

Mr Chiarelli: You just took credit for the previous years.

Mr Bisson: We're willing to give credit to the previous government for what it did. Let's be clear about that. But I think at least they should continue the process that they saw fit to start when they were the government and carry on with that process when they are in opposition. I think that is very important to talk about.

The other question is that the whole system of training when it comes to what we're doing under OTAB opens the process. If you look at the process by which OTAB was put together, it is quite an open process. It was an opportunity where we brought together various people within the community of Ontario and the training communities and the labour communities of Ontario, various groups such as L'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, various groups within the educational field, by which we talked together at one table in order to develop a program that would meet the needs of Ontarians.

In any kind of discussion when you do public consultation like that, there's a little bit of give and take. Obviously some groups want all of this and the other group wants all of that, but in the end the government's responsibility is to listen and to weigh all of the arguments that come forward and put together a program based on what we hear through the consultation.

I think the stakeholders that participated in this process have a lot to be proud of. They have a lot to be proud of because they participated in a process that was open. I think that's something that we should all congratulate the people who took part in this process for, because it really marks a change in the way we do things in the province of Ontario under an NDP government.

If you notice, Mr Speaker, in all of our legislation it is a similar type of process, where we go out and talk to the people. One of the difficulties when you do that, and I have mentioned it before in this House, is that when you open the process to the people it opens you up a lot more as a government that you expose yourself to the people of the province. It opens it up so that political shots can be taken and criticisms can be levelled, and that is fair game.

It may be other governments in the past, such as the former Liberal government and the former Conservative government, would rather do things behind closed doors because what ends up happening is that you have less of yourself exposed to the public and you can't get as many shots taken at you. But no, we as New Democrats believe that it's important that we open up that process because, after all, it is the people of Ontario whom we represent and we need to listen clearly to what they're saying. Then we have to take action on that. There is a danger politically in regard to the amount of attack that you'll get, but I think that the benefits far outweigh that and I think the people of Ontario recognize that and respect it. In the long term, I believe that the people of Ontario will reward us with yet another term.

I want to close the debate because there are other members within my caucus who want to have the opportunity to speak and unfortunately I don't have enough time in order to go into a number of other points that I have.

I just want to say one other thing in regard to OTAB. People also have to recognize that OTAB is a central board that would govern the decisions around training in the province of Ontario and that underneath that there would be local boards that would be formed, some 22 of those boards, to deal with specific training needs so that people at the local level have some direct say when it comes to training within their particular communities.

The other thing OTAB will do is that in the end it will save the taxpayers of the province some money. One of the things this will do is that it will allow, for once—probably one of the only times in training we've seen in a long time—for training to be brought underneath one roof.

I'll give you an example. I talked about literacy a little while ago. Did you know, Mr Speaker, that literacy training in the province of Ontario is funded under some five or six different ministries, depending on the style of literacy training you develop? I would urge Mr Allen, Mr Silipo, Marion Boyd and other ministers who are responsible to look at that kind of question, because if we're going to save the taxpayers dollars, I think that's one of the ways we have to do it. We have to make the running of government much more efficient.

When you look at the question just on the literacy end of it, there are five to six different ministries that are responsible for literacy training in the province of Ontario. One of the unfortunate things that happens is that not only do you have a larger amount of administration within government, which costs more money, but it also doesn't allow the people out there doing the training to get together in order to exchange the materials they develop within their programs, to share each other's experiences, to share in each other's training opportunities in order to deliver a much stronger system that serves the people they're intended to serve.

I would urge the minister to remember that. I know the minister has some 48 different programs he is looking at with the rest of his colleagues that might possibly fit under OTAB and I know literacy is one of them. I would urge the minister to take a look at that question, because I think our responsibility is that we need to be able to run government in an efficient manner. We recognize the economic difficulties

we have today in the province of Ontario, but I think there's only so much that governments can do on the taxation side. I know people don't want to lose services altogether. I think the way we save money in the end is that we have to look at those questions of administration.

I would end on this one note. I would urge the members of the opposition, especially the members of the Liberal Party, to reconsider their political position in regard to opposing OTAB. After all, it was their particular government that started this process. Let's give them credit for that. I think applause should be given, but I think as members of the opposition they should work with the government in order to make this legislation better for the people of the province of Ontario.

I would also like to thank the previous speaker, the member for London North, for her very thoughtful comments on this legislation.

With that, I would urge all members to support this legislation. I would also urge all the people watching out there in the public to get in contact with their local members of the provincial Parliament to discuss with them the whole concept of OTAB, and if they have any particular ideas to bring forward, to do that at the committee level when we finally get there.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member for his participation in the debate. Questions and/or comments.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): I'm interested in some of the remarks of the member for Cochrane South with respect to the OTAB proposal that is before us. He is concerned at my party's stance in not supporting this bill, given that the conceptual idea basically came forward as a result of the Premier's Council studies of these situations while my party formed the government here.

What we see in the OTAB bill that has been put forward gives us pause. I will tell you that we have talked with people in our constituencies and they are very concerned too about what is included before us and about which we have to make a decision.

First of all, we see a \$2-billion schedule 4 agency. The accountability issues are beyond belief. This is the creation of another Workers' Compensation Board about which and around which there will be absolutely no legislative or ministerial control. I suggest to you that in an environment where we're dealing with training issues, where the scenarios change on a daily if not weekly basis and where public policy must be virtually integrated on that regular basis, this is no way to run a training organization or to present an approach to training.

Furthermore, we have had absolutely no information about what happens in the interval with respect to the transition to a centralized training scheme. We don't know what's going to happen with apprenticeship programs; we don't know what's going to happen with cooperative programs.

I see that I'm almost out of time. I could go on in my two minutes for a long time. There are valid reasons for opposition to this bill, and we will all let those become very clear as the debate proceeds.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further comments and/or questions?

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Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I just wanted to make a couple of comments on the speech by the member for Cochrane South. I guess he's pointed out some of the realistic facts that we're living with in today's society. We're in a time when the workplace is changing very rapidly, and we see a lot of layoffs. But the OTAB is trying to point towards new partnership, and a different sort of partnership.

We've seen partnerships in the past that didn't actually reflect the true partnership of the workplace and changing some of that, and I think he's pointed out a lot of the needs there, looking at the skills and making sure the labour force is going to be properly trained for re-entry so that we can create long-lasting jobs. Right now, the training isn't being provided in the same sort of fashion that's going to make sure we're there for the long term. So I think he's pointed out some really interesting facts, and I just wanted to compliment him on that.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? If not, then I would call on the honourable member for Cochrane South. You have two minutes to make a response.

Mr Bisson: I was listening with some interest, I would guess is a mild way of putting it, to the comments that were made by the member from the opposition, the Liberal Party. The point I was trying to make is that what we need to do in this Legislature is I think we have to remove some of the political barriers that we build up in this place. We need to find a way, for the benefit of the people of this province, to leave our political baggage aside sometimes so that we can work on issues together.

We've had some good examples in this Legislature under this government, and possibly under others—I wasn't here at the time—where the three parties worked together in order to be able to do a better job for the people of Ontario. I think one such exercise was the select committee on Ontario in Confederation, clearly a non-partisan issue where all three parties came together and worked at putting together recommendations that were very solid, very well thought out, and built by consensus of all three parties.

The point I make is that I recognize I'm a politician and I will have my opportunities to make political shots, but I believe there are times when we have to leave that political baggage aside. I don't criticize you for doing it; I understand it. I would do the same thing in opposition in regard to trying to make political points, but I think I would choose a little bit more carefully where I tried to make those points. I think that on something like OTAB, it is a document that I think we all can work on, because we all agree with the basic premise of what we want to do.

The point the member made about, "We would do things a bit differently"—that's what we want to hear, but we want to hear that in a way that we leave our political baggage aside. I think that in this Legislature, like all others across the country, we need to find a way to deal with that question, because while we're wasting time taking political

barbs at each other, we're not dealing with the questions of the people of this province.

I listen to the constituents in my riding, and if I was to use some of the rhetoric that I use in this House with the people of my riding, I'll tell you what they would tell me, and you can well imagine. I think there are times where we have to leave that aside. I just urge members of the opposition, especially from the Liberal Party, to stop walking both sides of the fence and work with us on this.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate?

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): Frankly, it's with some trepidation that I comment again on this legislative project. As the member for Cochrane South just said, in this House we should indeed try to work together on important subjects and in the interests of the people whom we all represent. I agree with him there.

I take the position as an elected politician that foremost in my mind—and to be fair, I do feel foremost in the minds of most members—is that concern to serve our constituents and to come to political solutions that we can defend, that we feel are in the best interests of Ontarians and of all the people of Ontario, and it's precisely because we feel that way that we're opposing—that I'm opposing—this particular project.

The member for Cochrane South rightfully alluded to the fact that it was Premier Peterson and the Liberal government that put in place a major review of our industrial structure. A great part of that study was dedicated, and rightfully dedicated, to the question of training: how we deliver that, whether it is done well in this province and what improvements should be made.

In fact, the Premier's Council did make certain recommendations, but the Premier's Council also gave a very important proviso. I would like to point out to the member and to the members of the government that about exactly a year ago in this House I stood in my place here, when I was the critic for Skills Development, and responded to the minister's first announcement about OTAB.

What did I say? I quoted precisely the report from the Premier's Council. What did they caution? They would have cautioned a Liberal government just as well as a Conservative or NDP government. Well, they cautioned the government against "this new training structure becoming an elaborate bureaucracy that is even more complicated than the one it is designed to replace."

Frankly, that's what we see is wrong with this initiative. We're quite agreed that training is an issue where we want to work together and where we want to have a system in place that prepares our people to be competitive in an international economy—without question. But how do we do that best?

Frankly, I put on the record last year in my response to the minister some comments that, when I reread them today—and some of them I will repeat—I'm surprised how well I was right on the mark. What I said in my response—and it was on November 28, so almost a year ago, to the day—was that I felt the minister "is well on his way to falling into this trap" of building a very elaborate

bureaucracy that will be more concerned about maintaining its own apparatus than being involved in training.

I will be pointing out, as I make my remarks, some of the other comments I made, but before I do so, I also wish to indicate why I feel the Conservative Party is supportive of this initiative and relatively uncritical. Frankly, it makes quite a bit of sense, because this initiative, to a fair degree, is copying a federal Conservative example. We're all aware that the federal government has a program, the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, which has a very similar objective and, in fact, a very similar structure as this provincial OTAB board. So I'm not surprised at all, frankly, that the Conservative critic would be generally supportive of the initiative that is being put forward by the NDP government, because it's quite similar to the project that has been put forward by the Conservatives' federal cousins.

As an aside, I'm becoming really absolutely amazed and astonished—a better word, I guess, would be "flabbergasted"—at how much the NDP government—remember that: NDP, supposedly social democrat. They don't like to hear the word "socialist." Fine. A "social democrat" government is adopting Tory, Conservative and, for that matter, even very Conservative ideas like, for example, cutting all the grants out of the OSAP system. If ever there was a Conservative initiative, it's that one. If ever there's an initiative that I would have expected of the Conservative government, not of the NDP government, it's that, to eliminate all the grants out of the OSAP system, when it was that party over there that was saying in its platform, and I quoted in the House just last week, that it wanted to move towards a grants-only system, and now what it's doing is moving to a loans-only system. So, sure, what we're witnessing is this rather curious, to say the least, spectacle of the NDP and the Conservatives almost becoming kissing cousins.

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Mr Sutherland: Oh, please.

Mr Daigeler: Yes, the member for Oxford, I find this very scurrilous, too, because the thought is so objectionable. However, the reality, unfortunately, is what we're observing and this OTAB initiative and the support from the Conservatives is just another indication of this.

Mr O'Connor: Back to the OTAB.

Mr Daigeler: So, back to the OTAB, right. Why do I feel there are some very serious reservations about this particular project? Well, first of all, I do feel that the minister has set himself such an elaborate objective that it has taken him already more than two years to come in just even with a very minimal type of legislation. The bill itself is not very long, but it took almost two years to arrive at this stage. It will take at least until the spring session to pass the legislation. We will be well into 1993 until we just even got started with this thing. Now, that's almost three years into the mandate of the NDP government and that's precisely what I said last year, that because of what the minister is trying to bite off, he's having a very hard time swallowing and it's taking him an extremely long time to come to the end product, to get the taste of it.

Of course, in the meantime, and again that's what I mentioned last year, what is most crucial at this time is the

training for those people who are unemployed right now, the unemployed workers being left out in the cold in this particular project, and that is one of my main concerns.

Practically, as in so many other initiatives of this government, the whole ship is being turned over to representatives of the union movement and of groups that I frankly call the NDP support groups, although, after some of the announcements that, among others, the Minister of Colleges and Universities made last week and some of the other ministers, I wonder how long the NDP will be able to count on those traditional, what they used to call "underprivileged groups," because very, very quickly precisely these groups are becoming terribly disillusioned and disappointed with the NDP government.

What have we seen? Here I would like to remind the government of a rather interesting article that appeared last March in the *Globe and Mail* by Terence Corcoran, and here he is saying that the membership on this OTAB board will follow an eight-eight-six pattern: eight labour representatives, eight business representatives and six representatives of social, women or minority groups. That's what I call the NDP support groups. Now, what does Terence Corcoran say? He says, and I quote: "This is a formula for a boondoggle. The business reps could never represent a unified constituency, and even if they could, they would get swamped by the labour-social majority." That is a very major concern: that what we're seeing here, as Mr Corcoran is saying, is an initiative that is coming almost exclusively under the control of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Again I quote the *Globe and Mail* article: "The OFL is poised to hijack the new board and take control of the province's training programs." I feel that the minister and some of the members who previously spoke on behalf of the government are mistaken when they refer to the example of some of the European countries to support their own approach. I would simply like to refer to Germany, with which I have some experience, and how the training is done there. I do know that the minister has referred to the German training example in positive terms several times.

Three or four weeks ago I was at Sutton Place at an event organized by the German Canadian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. They had as a guest speaker the executive director of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce, and frankly he gave an excellent overview of the vocational training system in Germany.

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): What did labour have to say?

Mr Daigeler: What was your question? What is the input of the labour groups? That's precisely where I'm coming to. There is a role for the labour groups, but that role is precisely in the determination of the curriculum. The groups that are responsible for the actual training decisions for the contracts for the supervision of the apprenticeship program, for the settling of disputes, for organizing even the exams to issue certificates, are the chambers of commerce. I think this is a very important point to remember about the German model, which is very different from what we're seeing here.

This OTAB, in my opinion, gives a very minor role to the business community which has such an important role to play and whose interests are so much at stake. In the German system it is the chamber of commerce. It is industry associations that are responsible for the supervision and for the conclusion of the training contract with the apprentice. As I indicated, they supervise the exams and they play a major role in the whole administration of the training. For me, frankly, this is a major shortcoming, as I indicated already last year, of this particular initiative.

We already saw on the OTAB consultation committee the direction in which this government wants to move. It had a 14-person consultation committee. On this committee there were eight union leaders, and the non-union members included the founder of Parents Against Poverty, the director of an Ojibway family service agency and an academic. There were three business representatives. Again, as the *Globe and Mail* said, "You don't need a degree in political science and a mainframe computer to project the voting patterns of this group." When you have three representatives of the business community and eight representatives of the union movement, it's very clear where the decisions will end up.

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Frankly, I do not want to argue in any way, shape or form that labour should have no input. I think there's an important role for them to play, but there has to be, like we were arguing around Bill 40, a balance. You have to be reasonable in your approach. There are obviously different interests at stake, and what the government is doing is simply moving the whole process so it favours one side of the equation. In our opinion that is not fair, that is not reasonable and that's not in the best interests of the province or the workers.

The minister has said in his comments about the bill, "Well, yes, we have to have a new climate of cooperation where labour and management work together." Sure, we're all in favour of that, but at the same time you have to be realistic. This is, of course, a general problem that I have with many of the NDP approaches. They're extremely theoretical. They think that because something should be a certain way, therefore it must be that way. Unfortunately, life doesn't work that way. Perhaps the afterlife will work that way, at least I hope so, but in this sphere—

Interjection: Hallelujah, brother.

Mr Daigeler: —even though some on the government side, I think, would like to sing hallelujah already, it's a little bit tougher. We have to realize that there are different interests at stake, that there will be a fair amount of confrontation and people will want to look after their own interests first.

So in the structure that you're setting up, you have to make sure that all the interests have an opportunity to come to the fore and you have to make sure that a decision can still be arrived at. Otherwise, you're going to end up in a deadlock and nothing will happen. Frankly, that's another concern that I have: With the structure that is being set up, even if there is representation from the business community and even if there's representation from the labour

movement, will these people come together and arrive at decisions in the way the minister is hoping for?

We have some examples by now. I am told that, for example, in the health and safety committees it is not working very well at all. So, even though we would love to have all this cooperation, life operates differently. As legislators we have an obligation to make sure that the structures, the systems we put in place, prevent deadlocks from occurring. That's where I still see a major role for the minister and for the government.

I do not think this government can simply walk away from all of the training decisions that need to be made in this province. The minister is saying, "Well, you know, we will have this new, great bureaucracy that will provide all the training planning for the province that will make the decisions." The minister, I guess, feels he just has to sit back and watch. I don't feel very comfortable with that at all. There's room, somewhat like the federal setup, I guess, for an advisory group, for a structure that will analyse, that will recommend, that will propose. But in the end we still have political accountability right here in this House. We still need the minister to defend, to explain and to argue his policies in this House and before the legislative committees rather than to shift all of his responsibilities to the side and say, "Well, no, it's not my responsibility; it's that board's over there." I feel that this particular bill is a very dangerous step in that direction. In the end, however, I'm sure the public will not be fooled.

I have the suspicion that this initiative may also be another attempt by the Treasurer to move a big chunk of provincial expenditures artificially out of his budget into some quasi-governmental organization. In this way, the Treasurer would artificially deflate his own expenditure budget.

I think people will realize that, as with the WCB, a great part of the province's fiscal responsibility is precisely the province's responsibility towards these other agencies and organizations. As legislators we cannot simply let these groups run loose and absolve ourselves of any kind of political control.

When I looked at the actual bill the minister has put forward, which is really quite short, there were a few points that really struck me. The bill does recognize that OTAB has to "operate within a framework of accountability to the government of Ontario." What does that mean? It's in section 4. OTAB has to operate within a framework of accountability. If ever I heard a loose description of a relationship, it's that one. If there's an opportunity for the minister to clarify how he sees his own relationship and the relationship of his own government and his cabinet towards OTAB, perhaps I would feel more comfortable with this project.

In fact, he leaves himself a bit of a door open that he can direct OTAB. He says in section 5, "The minister may issue written directives to OTAB on matters that relate to its objects and that are, in the minister's opinion, of significant public interest." So I guess he doesn't want to run away totally from his responsibility, but I certainly am not comforted at all by what I have heard so far about the

relationship between this new agency, the minister and the government in general.

I have spoken at some length about the different representatives on OTAB, the group that will supervise this whole operation. In addition to the labour representatives, the groups from visible minorities and women, as I have mentioned, the minister also leaves himself the possibility open to appoint an additional director from the aboriginal peoples. He also leaves himself open the possibility to appoint a senior member of Ontario's public service and a senior member of Canada's public service and another additional director to represent the municipalities in Ontario.

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However, one group that I feel is definitely under-represented, and I see that the Minister of Education is just coming in, is that whole field of education. There are only two places, if I'm not mistaken, that are reserved for representatives from the educational community. Obviously, the community colleges in this province will play such an important role in skills development and training in this province and they have tremendous experience, competence and expertise in this field. They will be limited to two representatives on this board. I feel that there's definitely room to take another look at the educational community and the school boards as well. It's not only the college community but the school boards as well, because I do agree that we have to try to better integrate our system of elementary and secondary education with post-secondary education, with the college and university system. It's because of that greater articulation between these different systems of education that I do think OTAB also ought to have increased representation from the educational community on its board.

The minister has set himself a very elaborate and major project. About a year ago he said that this was the major initiative of the NDP government towards training. If that is the major initiative and if that's the program that will pull this province together towards being internationally competitive, we've been waiting a very long time for any kind of action. All we've done so far is we've had consultations—I've nothing against consultations, but they went on for about a year—and we're now in the process of finally having some legislation. We will have the spring break; then the legislation will be brought for final reading, I presume, in the spring. Then we go on to perhaps the effort to establish the board, and that will take some time. There will probably be only half a year or a year maximum left in the mandate of this government to really show whether this initiative will work.

Certainly, in the interest of the workers and in the interest of training and in the interest of industry and business in this province, I do hope it will work. I hope I'm wrong to say that this will only create another bureaucracy, but unfortunately with what I've seen so far that's the concern I have and that's why I will be voting against this project, because what this sets up is an elaborate bureaucracy and it does not provide the training that we need.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Questions and or comments?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I was enjoying the comments very much from the member for Nepean. I realize with the new rules he didn't have time to finish all his thoughts, and I'd ask for unanimous consent if he could have another 10 or 15 minutes to finish up.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent for the member for Nepean to continue? Agreed? No. I'm sorry, we don't have unanimous consent.

Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Oxford.

Mr Sutherland: The member for Nepean might have had enough time if he had kept specifically to the topic of OTAB rather than going off and talking about a wide range of other activities. The member for Nepean talked about criticizing this government and about dealing with theoretical concepts and that some of the things that we want in theory won't work in practice. I want to say to him that I believe this OTAB legislation is talking about practical ideas. It's talking about setting up the comprehensive training program, and if there's one thing I've heard from my constituents, it is, "Get on with it."

That's why I continue to be surprised that the Liberal caucus is saying they're going to oppose this legislation, they don't agree with this model, they want to hear some new ideas about what's going on. This issue has been studied for several years. It was their government's report that formed the basis of it. They consulted widely. They looked at the other models in other countries. I find it so hard to believe that Lyn McLeod, who came in—"new ideas," "fresh ideas," "let's go for it, let's get things done"—is now leading the party that says: "No, let's delay some more. Let's do some more consultation, and let's try and come up with some other structures."

A lot of people have made reference to "business and labour can't work together because of workplace health and safety." The member for Nepean did that. I just want to remind everybody, though, that there is a greater tradition, particularly in specific industries, of business and labour working together on training issues. The members have made reference to some of the progress that has been made in the steel industry. We know that we have training agreements in plastics. I've made reference in this House many times to how the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1977 has worked with Zehr's to establish training programs. There is a tradition in an individual area. There is a much stronger common interest in training between these two groups, and I think OTAB is going to work.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I just want to comment that it's unfortunate that additional time was not given to my colleague from Nepean, but I want to say that this individual, who is a dedicated educator, one who is committed to training, has so much to offer this debate. Furthermore, I had hoped too that although there are few government people on that side—I know they read the Hansard afterward—they could have taken the opportunity to hear what the member has to say. Now all I'm hearing is that we have studied this thing to death.

Most of the comrades over on that side who have gotten up, who've said they wanted input into all of this, are now saying, before they have even listened properly, "We've heard enough; we're just going to amend that." I want to say, "Here is your opportunity." I hope the member will have an opportunity—and he will, in his summary—to maybe be precise. I hope you take those words back, to build a better training program than you have here.

It's not that we are objecting to training and a training strategy; it's that you have no strategy, or the strategy you do have here is not focused or would not meet the goals that it should meet. I dearly hope that you will come to your senses.

One of the points the member brought up so vividly and so clearly is representation—and I will maybe get a chance to speak on it later on—representation from the educational field, from the school boards or from the community colleges. They have two there. Those who are very versed in that area of training are not represented. I hope you listen in the future when he makes his summary.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Durham-York.

Mr O'Connor: Just a couple of brief comments. The member opposite, during his course of participating in this debate, had talked about the OSAP grants. I guess we're living in a new reality, trying to use our dollars more wisely and share with more people.

He had talked about the federal system that clearly isn't working. I guess the participation level between industry and labour and those involved in training just wasn't high enough, so I think it's incumbent upon the government to use the dollars wisely. Right now we've got many ministries involved in training through a couple of dozen different programs. Clearly, that's not good use of our dollars and not a wise use, so we're taking a look at that and changing that around.

One thing he didn't mention was Jobs Ontario. We're working on Jobs Ontario now and trying to make sure we get the information out there because it's important that everybody hears about it. I know that this Friday in my riding in Stouffville I've got a meeting from 2 to 5 pm in the Stouffville Business Court to talk about this and to bring the brokers in so we can talk about Jobs Ontario and make sure we get the information out there. The brokers from Durham region and York region are going to be there.

I think it's really important that we talk about other aspects like Jobs Ontario for people today because we're looking at creating jobs for the future. We've got people who are out of work and collecting assistance and we want them to have full-time jobs, jobs that will last them into the future. Here's an opportunity where we can be talking about some positive things like OTAB and Jobs Ontario. It's crucial that we take a look and always be moving forward. We can take a look backwards and see that maybe the feds did have a system there, but it didn't quite work for our needs, and recognize that we've got to look at Ontario's needs and move forward.

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The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): I'm really kind of shocked by the reaction of the government members, that they're kind of surprised that we in the Liberal caucus don't believe that the answer to this particular problem of supplying skills training to the people of Ontario is not in developing a large bureaucracy.

When I travel the province and talk to my constituents and other people, I hear that people want to see less government. They want to see more streamlined answers, more quick reaction to the problems of the day. They don't want to see large bureaucracies, superministries being formed and parked over in an arm's-length relationship where they can't be accountable to government. That's not what people want. They want programs that quickly address the issues, that give incentive to the people out there to get their retraining, for employers to hire people to get the training going, because employers know the training they need.

The member for Cochrane South keeps saying that he thinks that all we're doing here is taking political shots. You've now heard two main speakers. You're going to hear two more from the Liberal caucus, and we consistently have the same concerns: that a highly centralized super-bureaucracy is not the answer in supplying skills training. If anything, we need fewer bureaucrats in Ontario, not more. All we're doing is consolidating all the skills training areas into one big bureaucracy that the minister, in a day-to-day way in question period, is not going to be able to be accountable for.

I can see a year from now asking the minister about the latest brouhaha up in OTAB and he's not going to be able to put his finger on it because it's a schedule 4 agency. That means it's independent of government. He doesn't have direct control, as a minister should, to say: "Listen, you fix that. This is going to be corrected tomorrow."

I'd like him to have that say. I'd like him to make sure that he's in charge, that he's politically accountable for that. That's what I want to see. We're willing to work with the minister to make sure we get that sort of accountability. But it's highly centralized and it doesn't represent all the workers of Ontario, and that's not the type of agency we want to see.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Nepean has two minutes in response.

Mr Daigeler: It's indeed unfortunate that I have only two minutes to further comment on what is admittedly a very important subject and certainly one that we all have a keen interest in.

I can understand, certainly, that the member for Oxford had some difficulty when I reminded him of some of the conservative initiatives that his government, in fact his own minister, is taking. I mean, the member for Oxford is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, and I saw him walk out, frankly, last week when his own minister made this terrible announcement about the cut in grants to the students.

Why did the parliamentary assistant walk out? Why did the member for Oxford walk out? Because he himself was a student leader before his most recent incarnation here at Queen's Park, fighting for the interests of the students, and now he has to have the shameful situation where he's the parliamentary assistant to the minister who's hurting the students most. That's why the member for Oxford didn't want me to talk about some of the other issues that his government and his minister is standing for.

But let me talk about OTAB. My main point is, why does the minister try to totally revamp the whole system, when really we have the elements in this province already: the industrial training councils. They are working. It is not as though they're totally useless. If we would have worked with them, if we would have improved them further, if we would have made the changes that perhaps are necessary, rather than totally dismantling the whole operation, then I think we could already be involved right now in the training and the training reform that we all so desperately need and want.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on Bill 96? The honourable member for Simcoe East.

Mr McLean: I'm pleased to have the opportunity to comment briefly on Bill 96, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board Act.

The explanatory note in this bill says, "The bill establishes the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board ('OTAB')—that's what it's called—"a crown agency which is to assume broad responsibility for the promotion, funding, coordination, design and provision of programs and services with respect to labour force training and adjustment."

This bill, an act to establish an Ontario training board, is certainly due for a lot of discussion. The act establishes a new crown agency in the province of Ontario and it's called the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, OTAB, which is supposed to provide shared, cooperative leadership of Ontario's labour force development system. It is supposed to assume responsibility for the promotion, funding, coordination, design and provision of provincial labour force training and adjustment and the services that go with that, including workplace sectoral training, apprenticeship programs, labour force adjustment and labour force entry and re-entry programs.

It is also my understanding that it is supposed to pursue labour market training and development programs that are equitable and accessible to all the people of Ontario. It's also supposed to pursue labour market development and research. It's also supposed to respond to the broad policy and priority direction set by the government. After all, it's the government that makes the appointments to the board.

OTAB is supposed to do a lot of things for a great number of people in the province of Ontario, but I fear it will only raise the false hopes and mistaken expectations of so many desperate people who are counting on OTAB for much-needed relief. I also have serious concerns that OTAB will turn out to be a huge mess, the massive flop and the bag full of political hot air that, as all know, the NDP government's Jobs Ontario Training fund has become.

The NDP government's 1992 budget announced the creation of Jobs Ontario, which was supposed to assist the growing number of social assistance recipients in getting back to work. When the NDP unveiled Jobs Ontario, more than 550,000 Ontario workers were unemployed, and that represented 10.5% of the workforce. One in four of those people had been unemployed for more than six months, and at the same time there were more than 580,000 cases of social assistance in Ontario, with more than one million people dependent on social assistance. The 1992 budget projected that \$6.2 billion would be spent on social assistance in 1992 and 1993, an increase of \$1 billion over 1991 and 1992 and three times higher than the 1989-90 expenditure of \$2.6 billion.

This government has claimed that the \$1.1 billion in the Jobs Ontario Training fund would provide for job training for up to 100,000 of Ontario's long-term unemployed over the next three years, and that the program is targeted at unemployed workers who have exhausted or are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits and people on social assistance.

Jobs Ontario has dashed the hopes and expectations of desperate people in Ontario, because this program has created only 675 jobs since it was launched in the spring. Jobs Ontario has turned into a dismal failure and the NDP government has lost all credibility to deal with the economic crisis facing Ontario. One community agency official in Toronto, who called Jobs Ontario a huge mess, said jobs were found for 10 people more than a month ago, but bureaucratic delays have prevented those 10 people from actually working.

One woman in Toronto, who says that Jobs Ontario training courses treat people like they're total idiots, was forced to take a basic math course at Seneca College even though she has a degree in biological research technology and is a voluntary tutor of advanced mathematics at the very same college. This is what the people were telling my office. Six people said that calls to a widely advertised hotline repeatedly produced the same response, a promise that the job seeker would be called back in about two weeks and a suggestion that the program would start within a month, but none of those people ever got a return phone call. I doubt that anyone could call Jobs Ontario a success and keep a straight face.

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I have a number of concerns and questions about OTAB that I believe the government has an obligation to answer for people before pushing Bill 96 through the legislative process. OTAB, if dealing with more than just workplace training programs, could become too focused on social policy rather than on skills training and workplace issues. Because of this expanded focus, many people are asking if OTAB's mandate is too ambitious.

Why was the OTAB governing board put in place prior to the conclusion of the whole process? What is this government trying to hide? How does the NDP plan to fund OTAB? I hope the government does not plan to introduce a payroll tax to fund this board, because that type of tax would only reduce competitiveness, impair job creation,

hurt economic growth and put a further squeeze on small business.

I have some very real concerns that OTAB will end up like Jobs Ontario—a dismal failure that will only raise the false hopes and mistaken expectations of the thousands of people who do not have jobs and the thousands of people who are receiving social assistance in Ontario.

Apparently the NDP government continues to ignore the fact that Ontario is in serious trouble. Our economy is becoming battered by high taxation, high unemployment and low productivity. Our social structure is stretched to the limit by soaring costs for health, education and welfare. It is about time that this government wakes up and realizes that renewing the economy is the first step towards resolution of social problems, because without a strong economy base there will be no jobs and there will be no investment and no tax base to fund the social programs.

Mr Speaker, you may recall, no doubt, that in October 1991 our Progressive Conservative caucus released *New Directions* volume I, *A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Prosperity in Ontario*. This document addresses our economic problems and outlines a series of proposals aimed at putting people back to work and putting Ontario back on the road to recovery. It is interesting to note that page 8 of this document outlines proposals for job creation. Now, I know all you members will have a copy of this *New Directions*. You look at page 8 and it outlines the proposals for job creation, adjustment and training strategies, including the creation of a new Jobs Ontario adjustment and training secretariat without a whole lot of bureaucracy.

This new secretariat would develop job, adjustment and training strategies and would have a mandate to link the provision of social assistance benefits directly to employment. Skills development, adjustment, training, retraining, apprenticeship and education—read all about it. You will learn it. The secretariat would be responsible only for establishing priorities and policies. Programs would then be delivered by the appropriate ministers, not a new bureaucracy. This secretariat would be run by streamlining, downsizing and eventually phasing out the Ministry of Skills Development. Much of that ministry's \$265-million budget is currently being spent on administration, duplication and bureaucracy.

We believe that transferring policy-setting to the secretariat and programs to more appropriate ministries or delivery agencies would improve decision-making and also free up millions of dollars for training programs, tax initiatives and new priorities.

Our economic problems are far too pressing and real to allow anyone the luxury of playing political games. I would urge the NDP to step back from its political agenda, put aside its partisan feelings and give serious consideration to the creation of new Ontario jobs. The adjustment and training secretariat was outlined in *New Directions* volume II, *A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Prosperity in Ontario*. Don't dash the hopes of the unemployment and social assistance recipients again with OTAB like you did with Jobs Ontario.

I want to indicate that on August 18, 1990, the NDP Agenda for People said:

"Training and adjustment: Training must be available to all workers affected by layoffs or plant shutdown. Unemployed workers need adequate income support and support services such as child care and counselling to use training opportunities effectively.

"New Democrats believe that training workers on the job is the prime responsibility of employers. We propose that large employers either offer training and upgrading opportunities or pay a training levy with joint employer-worker control of training programs. Many of these would be offered through university and community college programs."

Bill 96 raises some very serious questions, including, "Can business and labour work effectively together?" It was just this past weekend that I read in the Star paper that the unions had organized and joined together in another part of this province. Reflecting back on what one of the union presidents said, "It's our job to take on the corporations," I had to stop and say: "Really? Take on the corporations? Are we working together for the betterment of the province of Ontario to create a climate where people want to come and invest and spend their money?" It says, "Can business and labour work effectively together?" It was the labour movement that called the first shot. It said, "We're after the corporations."

"The current deadlock at the bipartite workplace health and safety organization demonstrates the difficulty of decision-making at joint labour-management organizations. The agency, created two years ago, certifies and sets standards of training for the 100,000 job safety staff required in all Ontario workplaces with more than 20 employees. Instruction was to begin last spring but stalled because of labour-management disagreement over how many core training hours each safety officer could receive."

There we are. We're talking about labour-management disagreement.

"The dispute could not be resolved and five of the nine—"

The Acting Speaker: Order. There are many, many private conversations and very many interjections, which are out of order. We are in a mode where we have questions or comments following the honourable member's participation. You will have your opportunity. Please, the member for Simcoe East.

Mr McLean: Mr Speaker, I enjoy the interjections, because they don't bother me a bit. I want to continue:

"The dispute could not be resolved and five of the nine business representatives have resigned. They have called for the resignation of the management co-chair, arguing that he no longer represents the interests of business. The business representatives believe that the Minister of Labour leaned on the co-chairman to swing his vote in favour of the adopted proposal, which creates a three-tier program ranging from a minimum of one week's training to a maximum of three weeks' training."

To say, "Can business and labour work effectively together," you can't if labour does not want to cooperate in a way that all could work together.

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The other question bears asking: How much will OTAB cost? I have seen many different figures initiated. I have seen \$300 million, I have seen \$400 million, and from indications from some members here, it could be \$2 billion. Well, I would like to hear what the minister's answer to all of this really is.

They're looking at a rough estimate, based on the current budgets for provincial programs, of \$400 million to \$500 million. This estimate seems low considering the fact that on October 24, 1991, Richard Allen, Minister of Skills Development, signed the new \$1.6-billion Canada-Ontario Labour Force Development Agreement. In the first year of the agreement the federal government will contribute \$846 million and the provincial government will contribute \$751 million towards programs in Ontario. This represents an 83% increase over the amount allocated from the previous year.

There are also the terms in here where we're looking at the approximately 800 civil servants currently administering training programs in Ontario who will be transferred to the new crown agency with all their seniority and benefits protected. If the government imposed a payroll tax for training in the future, it could become another WCB.

The Workers' Compensation Board has a \$10.3-billion unfunded liability and satisfies no one. The Treasurer, the other day in the House, could not even answer the questions of what the cost is to build their new Taj Mahal down in Metropolitan Toronto.

When we look at some of the costs created in this new program, in the implementation program of it, it leaves a lot to be desired.

There are people who have done a tremendous job in industrial training centres in the communities across the province. On many occasions I had discussions with Terry Harbour Wood in Orillia, who is a great promoter of the industries, and worked together with the industrial development commissioner, worked with many people who was involved with regard to training in industrial workplaces.

We talk about Patricia Mueller in Midland, who was also involved in a industrial training centre and has done a terrific job in promoting the community for people to come. These people have really done a lot of volunteer work along with the promotions that they had done with regard to trying to have industry locate in their communities. They worked very closely with the chamber of commerce in Midland; Carol Baker is the manager there. They worked with the chamber of commerce in Orillia where now Susan Lang, the first female president of a chamber in Orillia, who I anticipate will do a super job. I commend the board of directors that put forth her name and recommended her as our industrial development officer for the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce, because that is really what she is. She deals with people who want to locate.

The accountability is what is going to have a lot to do with regard to the powers and directives of the board. When you look at the OTAB, they must comply with the Management Board, treasury board, Human Resources Secretariat directives, with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the French Language Services Act, the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining

Act and the Public Service Act. Board members must declare any conflict of interest and will develop bylaws regarding the procedure for such conflict that may arise.

When the federal government and the provincial government initiated this program in partnership there was a lot of discussion with regard to what was going to happen with the small communities that had been represented by people with regard to industrial training. There has been a lot of discussion with regard to what the cost of this program is going to be. There is a lot of discussion of the large areas that wasn't going to be amalgamated together in order to form the group that was going to direct the 22 different areas in this province. It has not been easy and that is not finalized yet.

So we can look at the regulations, the establishment of an associated network of local boards which will guide the planning and delivery of provincial and federal labour force development programs at the community level. Local boards will be the joint initiative of OTAB, the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, Employment and Immigration Canada and the government of Ontario. The government anticipates that a number of the 22 local boards will be established by the spring of 1993.

According to this bill, in section 9, we talk about the directors—22 directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. There are two co-chairs, one representing business and one representing labour; seven directors representing business and seven directors representing labour. There will be two directors representing education and trainers, one director representing francophones, one director representing persons with disabilities, one director representing racial minorities and one director representing women.

"Each director shall be selected in consultation with organizations representing the group that the director is to represent." In the selection of directors, the importance of reflecting Ontario's whole overall area and the overall gender balance shall be recognized. The bottom line is, these are all government appointments. These will be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, recommended by the cabinet and the term of office will not exceed three years, and they may be reappointed.

I guess the most discouraging thing when the announcement was made on this is that we at one time had a skills development program in Ontario that provided funding to people who wanted to take some retraining within industry so that they could be back in the workforce. When this started, that was stopped.

There has been now 18 months spent setting up a board of directors. We have no idea when the programs will be in place. We have no idea how much money is going to be levied against business in order to make this happen. We have no idea of the number of people who are going to be able to apply and how they're going to be able to apply.

In my earlier remarks I talked about some certain people who have made calls, and never even got a reply back from the ministry office. It's disgraceful when a person who is down and out and is looking for a job phones a ministry that is supposed to be helping people and it doesn't even return the call. It's unfortunate what some

people would call that, and I'm not about to repeat what some people may say.

I mentioned just briefly how the programs will be paid for. The legislation is very quiet on this. The government's discussion paper stated that the governing body would have to consider various options and determine future funding mechanisms. This will be problematic since the Ontario Federation of Labour, with just seven seats at the table, has publicly endorsed a payroll tax for training. Business strongly opposes a training tax and wants investment and training to be voluntary.

Mr Harris: More taxes. Can you believe it?

Mr McLean: Another tax on business. What has this government done to encourage people in investment and industry to want to come and work in Ontario?

The other day, as I indicated here, an individual from Lafontaine in the riding of Simcoe East, who had an airplane company and wanted to locate in that area, said he is having nothing but trouble with bureaucracy. He spent from November 16 to November 23 in the United States looking at sites where he could locate.

There's something wrong in Ontario, and I don't know; there are a lot of people who do not have the answer to that.

Who will represent the 70% of people who aren't under the union? Who will represent that 70%? Will organized labour's viewpoints dominate decision-making on the board? With the majority of people on the board representing labour, there's no question who will have the total say.

Why is the existing training infrastructure being abandoned? The 22 local boards will replace the 57 community industrial training centres. The expertise of all of these members will not be utilized as the number on the board shrinks from 57 to 22. There is no guarantee that the CITC members will be nominated by their labour market partners to the new boards. The staff will not be protected and therefore will have to apply to the local boards for employment.

2050

Here we are creating more unemployment and there's not been one single job created, and there are 18 months before anything's going to be in place. They're looking at a budget of close to \$2 million. We're looking at another tax off the corporations. I think the initiative at the beginning was probably right, but this government has made a bureaucracy out of the whole system. I would hope that our critic would be able to get them straight, get them back on track and get the people who will be able to create jobs and put things back in place, because the bureaucracy here is really costing us.

In wrapping up, I congratulate all those people who have served on these boards and who, I hope, will continue to make a serious contribution. It wasn't long ago that we had some meetings in the city of Orillia with a group of business people. We had a meeting and they called it "Attitude." What is your attitude? What is your attitude towards business? What is your attitude towards wanting to create jobs in your community? How is your attitude towards expanding your business? Attitude was the theme of that seminar. I'm telling you today, in the province of Ontario many people's attitudes are not what we would

like to see. That's why the initiative was there, to try to change the attitudes of people.

You see billboards in Metro Toronto that are talking about the Buffalo-Booster Man of the Year. I have people in my community coming to me and saying: "Because of the bureaucracy, I cannot develop my company here. I want to stay in Ontario." He sends me a fax and he says, "If you can help me, let me know how you can help me, and if you can't, don't bother phoning me." He was fed up with what's happening here in Ontario. I feel bad about this. And this was only one individual. It's only one.

So the Jobs Ontario program that was in place, where we have lost thousands and thousands of jobs—every member here probably has people coming in his office every week looking for assistance, looking for help, looking for direction where they can go and try to create a job.

I had a lady the other day who had 18 envelopes that she had received from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, because she couldn't get a job. All she got was a form letter sent back—no interviews, no nothing. I understand why: There are probably 500 to 1,000 applications for every position that's open in Ontario.

Who has created the loss of jobs in this province? It's been the attitude of the government. When I mentioned the word "attitude," that has been the reason. That has been the cause of what's happened. Why is Ontario behind what's happening in Alberta? Why are we behind what's happening in western Canada? It's because the engine that has run this province has run out of gas. It's run out of fuel.

I remember the Treasurer saying many times in this Legislature we should have the same price of fuel across the province; it should be the same in northern Ontario as it is here. He's now the Treasurer, and is it the same price? No. And when I look at the Agenda for People, I don't happen to read too many commitments in there that have been fulfilled or kept. As my leader has said, thank God they don't keep any of them, because we don't need them.

When we look at some of the legislation we've been dealing with here, I can tell you it's no wonder the committees have to meet on Sunday. I can't believe it: the first time in history that a committee has met on Sunday; the first time in history that we've been cut to 30 minutes to debate any bills; the first time in history that we've had a full two weeks of night sittings. There are probably more hours in the two weeks of night sittings than they've had in this whole Legislature system put together.

And what legislation have they done up until now? Probably two bills are about all that's been passed, and they'll want to pass the balance in the next two weeks of night sittings.

I deem it a pleasure to discuss Bill 96, the OTAB's broad policy direction, and I would hope that our critic would have the foresight to be able to convince the minister of the faults in their ways.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): It's indeed a pleasure to be able to respond very briefly, in the two minutes that I have, to some of the comments that have been made by my honourable friend.

With respect to Sundays, I can tell you that I'm one of the most aggressive anti-Sunday-opening, anti-Sunday-shopping people I know. But I understand that we have an awful lot on our plate here in this Legislature with the market value reassessment bill, and I think a little overtime and knuckling down to some hard work for some of us is not out of order and, quite frankly, is a welcome change.

With respect to the OTAB and some of the comments my honourable friend made on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, I can only say one thing, one thing and one thing only: It was a classic opposition speech, a speech that had no vision. Here we are about to embark on a new course for Ontarians, on a new course for training in the province of Ontario, and what kind of speech do you get from the opposition? "Don't. Don't embark on a new course, because we don't know what's going to happen. We're really uncertain, we're really unsure, so don't go. Please don't go."

Well, I say to my honourable friend, there are so many people out there who are hurting so much that a new course is welcome and we're all well on our way. I hope they come along for the ride.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Ramsay: That was really a refreshing change from the Progressive Conservative Party, that speech we heard, because I have a little concern about the critic from London North. I thought she was a little too cosy with OTAB there and I sort of want to hear some further discussions and hope we have some more opportunity to discuss this with her on committee.

What we really heard here tonight, and I think it was very well put by the previous member, is a concern that's been expressed by many members here tonight: that the answer to the skills training problem, according to this government, is to create a new superbureaucracy. As I've said many times this evening, and I will keep on repeating it, the last thing the people of Ontario want to see is more government, more bureaucracy, more big superministries to try to solve the problems of Ontario.

It's the people out there in the private sector who know how to solve their problems, and granted, I think government needs to push those folks. For sure, they need to be pushed a little bit to make sure they invest in training. I think that's very important and I think government is the tool to do that and we need to push them. But to create a sort of superbureaucracy that's at arm's length from the government where we're not going to have that day-to-day control by the minister I think is really a shame.

I'd say to the minister, if this government wants to look at agencies to privatize, there are a lot of other things that maybe it could privatize rather than one of the fundamental tenets of government, and that is education and skills training. Obviously, skills training and health and the criminal justice system and social services are something that should remain in the domain of government, and that's why we're opposing this. We would hope that the minister would change his mind.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The leader of the Progressive Conservatives, the member for Nipissing.

Mr Harris: I just want to briefly echo the comments of the member from Timiskaming that we too are concerned about this move towards big bureaucracy, that unless you hire 500 or 1,000 civil servants the program doesn't seem to be very good. This government seems to be wanting to race with the Liberals to see who can hire more civil servants to deliver programs. I doubt you'll catch up to the Liberal record—some 8,000 new civil servants in five years; big bureaucracy, big taxing—but I don't know why you would want to try, and that's what you seem to be wanting to do.

But what I particularly want to comment on are the comments by the member for Simcoe East and earlier the comments by the member for London North. Both offered some very commonsense, specific solutions. Unlike any other opposition party in the Legislature of Ontario, we don't just criticize; we are offering positive and very specific solutions. The member for Simcoe East talked about New Directions volumes I and II and the very positive suggestions that we have there to get training, retraining and skills training under way. By the way, I want to congratulate the member for Simcoe East and, of course, the member for London North for their work and effort in putting forth these commonsense solutions.

I want all members to know that if they haven't got copies of this, they can get it by calling 1-800-665-6453. If anybody is interested in some very commonsense solutions, New Directions, if you call 1-800-665-6453 you will find that the new, reformed Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has answers and solutions that are commonsense and specific to the province today, so give it a call today.

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The Acting Speaker: Thank you. We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I believe you should have a TTY number attached to that. That's not an accessible number.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Simcoe East has two minutes in response.

Mr McLean: I would like to take my time to thank the member for Timiskaming for his comments.

Really the basis of the whole thrust of his comments was big government. People are sick and tired of big government and more government, and they don't want another bureaucracy built up like the WCB. That is what has happened in this province, and that's what we don't want to see happen again.

The member for Downsview spoke with regard to Sundays. Well, I'm sure he'll have the opportunity this Sunday if he wants to take the time to sit here in committee and listen to the MVA bill, the farce that it is, sent out to committee before second reading—the first time in history that's ever happened. We had a vote this afternoon to send it to committee. They've already been holding public hearings. You know, the agenda of this government is, "It's

what we want to do, it's what we're going to do, and it doesn't matter what the rest of the people want."

I want to thank the member for Nipissing for taking the time to come here tonight because I think it's great that the leader has worked desperately with regard to A Blueprint for Economic Renewal and Prosperity in Ontario. This New Directions volume I and volume II I think has been a great thrust. We've had the opportunity to speak with regard to many issues that we don't agree with, but I'm telling you, we do have alternatives, and that is what I think is most important. I didn't realize what the phone number was, but I'm sure that you can read it. It's 1-800-665-6453, and I can read that from the back. You'll be surprised at the amount of people who will want to phone tonight or tomorrow to this 800 number to receive a copy of this New Directions, because we think it's important and the people of the province who read it will think it's important too.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate on Bill 96?

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I'm pleased to speak on this important bill, and I think the first thing that all of us in the Legislature would agree is that probably it's one of the most important areas we'll tackle in the years ahead, and that is: How are we going to ensure that we provide the people of Ontario with the necessary skills to enter the workplace, provide them with the skills when they're in the workplace, and, for those people who for one reason or another lose their job, how do we help them adjust to the new workplace?

There is probably very little debate about the objectives of this particular bill, and very little, I think, objection to things that we are trying to accomplish with this. If you look at any jurisdiction, certainly in North America and probably any jurisdiction in the industrialized world, they are all looking at and doing these things.

The issue is not the objectives of it. The issue is the way that this bill proposes to tackle it. I would say to the government that there is a fundamental flaw in it. The government can choose to ignore, but I would hope that at least some of the backbenchers would not quietly sit back and say, "I'm going to simply accept this." The fundamental flaw in this, and I can't tell you how strongly I feel about this, is setting this up as something completely independent from the government.

The jargon we use around here is that it's a schedule 4 agency. But we know these agencies as, for example, the Workers' Compensation Board, and we saw today in the newspaper that the government is looking at finding a way to take the WCB to court to get it to stop building a building that makes no sense. This WCB is an independent crown agency, but the government has got to take it to court to get it to listen to the public.

Here's what we're going to do with all of the training, all of this absolutely crucial part of the future of this province: We're going to turn it over, not to the public—this isn't the public that is going to run this; this is an independent agency. Believe me, you will not be able to have

public input into this agency. We are losing control of training in this province once this bill passes.

The members shake their heads but I don't think the members have looked at the bill and understand it. I have looked at it carefully and the minister is trying to fool the people when he puts out these documents and says that you will still have accountability. You won't. Minister of Education, I am surprised that you are supporting this bill; I truly am. The Premier has said, "We want training to be a provincial responsibility." This bill is going to take it right out of the hands of the public.

Who will run it? It will be 22 people. Not even people selected by the publicly elected people; these will be people selected by the business community and by the OFL. The public officials won't select them; they will. We are handing over to an independent agency the most fundamental part of the future of this province, and the government members sit quietly and let it happen. I don't think you understand how important this is.

Minister of Skills Development, I will say to you, you put out this piece of paper that suggests you will have control of it. These are exactly the same controls the government has over the WCB, and the only way you can get the WCB to act is to take it to court. Do we want training, do we want workplace adjustment, do we want all the workplace skills, do we want the apprenticeship program out of the hands of the public and the only way we can handle it is to take OTAB to court?

This issue has to be debated and the government members—surely to goodness at least some of the back bench will take the time to look at how important this decision is.

2110

We're going to lose control of this. The public are going to give it up. And it's not \$400 million, Minister; it's going to be \$2 billion.

Hon Mr Allen: Oh, garbage.

Mr Phillips: I'm saying it's going to be \$2 billion, and if you're saying the federal money is not coming into this, I want you to stand in your place tonight and say the federal money isn't coming, because the minister has gotten up in this House and said—pardon me?

Hon Mr Allen: You are full of hot air.

Mr Phillips: I will ask the minister later on to say to the House that the federal money will not be administered through OTAB. Is that what the minister is saying?

Hon Mr Allen: That's not what I didn't say.

Mr Phillips: Well, then, it's \$1.6 billion, so it is \$2 billion, and the minister confirmed that tonight.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr Phillips: The minister confirmed that tonight, Mr Speaker, then. The budget of this particular agency will be \$2 billion.

So there will be 22 people in this province, none of them selected by the public, who will be in charge of \$2 billion, who will be in charge of the most fundamental parts of our society; that is, the whole issue of apprentice-

ships, the whole issue of workplace training, the whole issue of workplace adjustment. We're going to give that up.

Some day it's possible you may be in opposition and you will look back on this and you'll say: "My God, why did we ever agree to abdicate this responsibility? We'd never consider doing this with our elementary and secondary schools. Never, ever."

The minister is barracking over there, but I'm right.

Mr Hope: You are right. In five years, why didn't you do something? You had the opportunity.

Mr Phillips: Yes, I'm right. This is an independent crown agency, just like WCB, and I would say to the government members: It's time you looked carefully at what you are planning to do.

What other models do we have like this? Well, there's the WCB, and I repeat, the government today said the only way it can get the WCB to do what it wants is to take it to court. The second one is something called the Workplace Health and Safety Agency. That's a bipartite board. This is the one attempt at partnerships, bringing the two together, and they're at war.

Here we go setting a model up where we are going to turn over the most fundamental aspects of our economy to an independent agency over which the government will have no control.

Mr Hope: What government is that, Gerry?

Hon Mr Allen: What government put the health and safety—

Mr Phillips: The members across are barracking about what government is setting up OTAB. It is you who are setting up OTAB and it's you who will turn over to this agency all the responsibility for managing something this important.

The second part that I wanted to talk a little bit about—and I will come back to that independent agency, because it's absolutely fundamental to this issue—is the funding. The minister barracks from the other side, and his numbers suggest they're going to spend \$400 million. But I would say that the minister came to this Legislature several months ago and said there is \$1.6 billion of federal training money that will be coming to be administered by this body. So what we're talking about is an agency that will have funding for \$2 billion.

One of the previous speakers said it as well, and as I read the bill, this independent agency will also have the potential to raise additional funds. This is an enormously powerful body that will also be given the rights to raise money. The members say, "Well, what's wrong with that?" Here's what's wrong with it. They will be administering a budget of \$2 billion to \$3 billion—none of them elected, none of them accountable to the public—and none of the people of this province who are turning over about \$2 billion of their money will have a say in it. It is, in my opinion, crazy. Why would we do this?

Mr Hope: Oh, so the business and the labour people are incompetent. Are you saying those individuals would be incompetent?

Mr Phillips: The member is asking, "Are you saying they'll be incompetent?" I'm not saying they'll be incom-

petent. I'm saying that the people of this province have a say in this thing. The people of this province have a huge stake in it, and they won't select any of these members. I don't think the government members understand that or appreciate that, but it's out of your hands.

The third thing that concerns me is—and I can predict this with, I think, a fair bit of certainty—we are going to bog this down. We are going to bog this whole area down. We are going to turn over to this body two pages of programs to administer right when we're in the heart of an incredibly tough time for employment and right when we're going to see the US moving extremely quickly in this area. President Clinton is going to run very quickly in this area. But what are we doing? We are setting up an incredible bureaucracy. We are turning over to this bureaucracy two pages of programs. We are burdening this with a mandate that it cannot possibly handle.

Mr Hope: They've got the same problems as we've got in education and training. They are not going to move any faster.

Mr Phillips: The member keeps barracking over there, but I think it's time, on something this important, that he begin to understand what you're about to do. What you're about to do is create a system that is going to fail the people of the province. It's going to fail the people of this province because you are asking it to do the impossible.

That's my third major concern, and that is that I think it was at least 18 months ago the Premier promised this. The Premier said his proudest accomplishment was OTAB. He said that. That's his proudest accomplishment. We've finally now seen the legislation. The legislation will not be passed until the spring, and then there will be another considerable period of time in setting this whole independent, out-of-the-watch-of-government agency up, and it's going to have a mandate that is going to completely bog it down.

Mr Hope: Then why don't we give it first, second and third reading?

Mr Phillips: So at the time when we see in this province a plant closing every three days, many in his riding; when we see youth unemployment at 20%—and if you can believe this, Mr Speaker, it was only two years ago that Ontario had far and away the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Premier Rae is fond of saying, "Well, don't blame me. It's a worldwide problem," but when he became Premier, Ontario had the lowest unemployment rate in the entire country.

Now what's happened? British Columbia has a substantially lower unemployment rate than Ontario. Alberta has a substantially lower rate than Ontario. Saskatchewan has a lower rate than Ontario. Manitoba has a lower rate than Ontario. And in September, New Brunswick had a lower rate than Ontario. A majority of the provinces have a lower unemployment rate than Ontario, so you can't continue to go around and say, "It's a worldwide problem; don't blame me." How have five provinces outstripped Ontario's employment rate? How could that be if the Bob Rae programs were working?

So what we see is a plant closing every three days. What we see are unemployment rates that are totally

unacceptable. What we see are companies leaving this province because they don't have confidence in the government. Now there's a chance to establish something that would be a signal, and what are you going to do? You are going to set up an independent agency. I will say you'll make somebody happy. You'll make somebody really happy. The OFL are delighted with it and I understand why. The Ontario Federation of Labour thinks this is terrific and I understand why. They will essentially be in control of it.

I take my hat off to the OFL. They've done a fabulous job getting their agenda through this government, whether it be Bill 40 or this. As the OFL says, "The proposed structure of OTAB will require the involvement of more than 200 trade unionists as board members." They're going to need 200 of them. "The time commitment will be substantial, as much as four or five days a month." So we've got 200 trade unionists. They're going to have to work four or five days a month at it. Certainly, we're going to see some more jobs created, I guess, because there we see four or five days a month for 200 trade unionists. Of course, to ensure full and meaningful participation, all board members will be compensated for lost wages. That's a precondition for labour involvement.

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"The success of OTAB and local boards depends on each of the parties around the table being clear about their own agendas. Labour must be able to train the labour representatives in many aspects of the new job as labour representatives on training boards." So there's going to have to be quite a training program for the people who are on the training boards.

"Not only must there be funding for initial training, there must be financial support for regular follow-up. The labour representatives from around the province should get together quarterly to share experience, discuss policy and plan their future actions together in the interests of the workers they represent."

I understand why the OFL is pleased with this. The union leadership will have eight of the 22 seats. On the other boards, they'll have a total of at least 200 labour representatives working at least four to five days a month. So I can understand why they're happy.

Mr Hope: Don't ever let working people have a voice, eh, Gerry?

Mr Phillips: The people of Ontario who depend on this for their future have a right to know why we are going to take this totally out of the hands of the public. Is this something we want to turn over? Is this something we want to wash our hands of and turn over to an independent agency? I would say that is a fundamental issue.

If the members opposite can stop heckling long enough to let that sink through, to have a debate about that and really think to themselves—yes, we're in opposition and you're in government and there's a natural tension, but is this really what you want? Do you really want to give up an opportunity for public scrutiny, for public involvement in something so fundamental? You'd never agree to this running the elementary schools, you'd never agree to it

running the secondary schools, you'd never agree to it in the public arena, but you're agreeing to this now. You will have no say in who runs this.

I'd also say, when you look at the magnitude of this budget, it will be, at the outset, \$2 billion. I challenge the minister. If it's his intention not to put that federal money in here, I'd like to know, but I don't think he'll ever answer that, because it is clearly the intention. As a matter of fact, as you read the document from the OFL, all training plans and money, both federal and provincial, are channelled through OTAB so there is a coordinated approach to training. It isn't just the \$400 million to \$500 million of Ontario money; it's going to be the federal money as well that will be going through OTAB.

As I say, the fundamental issue we should be debating here is: As a matter of public policy, are we in agreement to turn this over or not?

The concern many people in the community have about this is that there are successful programs operating out there right now. There are programs that have broad community involvement, and the member from the third party, I think, outlined several of those. There are many of them out there operating right now. They are going to be brought in under this agency, lose their autonomy and be subject not to a public body administering them but to this body of 22 people.

The government has often said, "Well, this is like Germany," or "This is like Holland." It isn't. It isn't like Germany. Germany has equal partnership by the duly elected governments with the workplace partnership. They haven't abdicated it. They haven't given it away. This is not like Germany. It's not like Holland. It is a made-in-Ontario program with no track record. If anything, the one model out there, which is the Workplace Health and Safety Agency, is in a major war. We find Workplace Health and Safety where, if there was ever a place where I thought there could be a partnership, there is a war going on. What are we going to do? We're going to turn over something this fundamental to a body like that.

The government talks about this being a model like Germany. It is not. It is not a model like we see in Europe. They talk about being able to direct this body. This is like WCB, this is like workers' compensation, and the government doesn't direct workers' compensation. It acts independently. The thought of abdicating this responsibility is an extremely serious, dangerous and fundamental mistake.

I would ask all the members in the Legislature to examine this fundamental principle of turning over to an independent agency something this important. There is no argument with anybody about the need for apprenticeship programs. There's no argument with anybody about the need for improved training. There's no argument by anybody about the need for better workplace adjustment programs. There's no argument about the need for helping people adjust to the changing workplace. But why would we turn all of this over to something over which we have virtually no control?

So as we look ahead at the debate, I think that's where the focus will be. It will be around: What does this government want to do? What does this Legislature want to do in

the future about training? Who has a stake in it? There are 22 people who are going to have a huge stake in it, but I don't think the rest of the people in the province are going to have the voice that they want and the voice that they deserve.

We will be very much articulating our concerns. We will be saying to the government, "You're making a fundamental mistake," for whatever reason. I think I understand, but we certainly will not let it go unchallenged, and as we head into the hearings, I think you'll find more and more people recognizing that what we're buying here is not a solution, but it's the start of a major problem.

With that, I will conclude my remarks and look forward to the public hearings on this particular bill.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Questions and or comments?

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The member for Scarborough-Agincourt gives us reason to understand why he keeps on getting re-elected. I have to stand back and say that I personally appreciated the comments that Mr Phillips has made tonight.

Mr Daigeler: He always makes good comments.

Mr Cousens: Well, his speech, his understanding of the issue, his understanding of the province and the perspective that he gave to it.

I think that sometimes when we're in the House and people see us constantly doing battle with one another, it becomes very easy for people to see the adversarial nature that the Ontario Legislature has become. I'm very quick to criticize the Liberals when they kind of retract certain positions. Certainly yesterday, when the member for Oriole was talking about market value assessment, I was able to have some fun in pointing out to her how she had an opportunity to do a better job herself when she was in government.

I have to say on this one issue that, when the Liberals were in power and Mr Phillips had an opportunity, being a very integral part of the Peterson government, if they wanted to, they could have brought in legislation like this but did not. Instead, they tried to work with some of the existing programs and tried to create an environment for people to find jobs and to get to work. What we're seeing here, and Mr Phillips has described it well, is a rather large wholesale change to the way in which these services can be delivered to the people of Ontario.

So, instead of asking the honourable member to make further comments, I say, with genuine affection and respect, compliments to Mr Gerry Phillips. I think that you have served Ontario well tonight by your comments.

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The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Downsview.

Mr Perruzza: Just very briefly in the two minutes that I have, I couldn't help but listen to my friend, and I have to tell you that what I've been hearing from my Liberal friends for the past several days on this issue and a number of other issues is simply nothing more than doubletalk.

I've attended meetings in the community where I've had Liberals attend, and they have been all over the map on this issue. I have to tell you that many of them have applauded the initiative and in fact have said that this is the way to go, because business said that this is the way to go, labour said that this is the way to go, trainers said that this is the way to go, educators said that this is the way to go, social service agencies said this is the way to go. Because, quite frankly, the people out there who are hurting most, the unemployed, the people who find themselves out of work, don't know how our training systems work. They don't believe that we can deliver on the training program that will get them back to work. They don't know; they can't find their way around it. They say: "Make it simpler for us. Make it a system that responds to our needs, that responds to our pain. Let the people who know how to do it, do it." And this is what this does.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Timiskaming.

Mr Ramsay: I'd like to comment on the comments from the member for Downsview.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: No, no. Order. You have to comment on the member for Scarborough-Agincourt.

Mr Ramsay: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

During the debate of the member for Scarborough-Agincourt there were many comments made in this House about the workers' ability to manage an organization such as this and whether workers should be represented. The answer to that is yes, that workers should be represented. I'll say to the member for Chatham-Kent that all workers should be represented.

Mr Hope: And they are.

Mr Ramsay: No, they're not.

Mr Hope: Don't give me that.

Mr Ramsay: This government is excluding 70% of the workers in this province.

Mr Hope: Who stood out in front of Queen's Park—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Ramsay: Some 70% of the workers in this province are not being represented on OTAB, and that's a fact.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, order. Interjections are not accepted.

Mr Ramsay: The fact is that only unionized workers are allowed to participate in OTAB. Unionized workers should obviously be included in OTAB. In fact, I'll even say they should be represented more on OTAB than they are in the general working population. But it is a crime and it is wrong and it is unfair not to make sure that there is representation from those who find themselves, for whatever reason, not represented by organized labour.

There are some sectors of the economy that, by tradition, have not been organized. There are new, very fast growing areas of the economy that aren't organized yet. I'm sure they will be some day, and that's fine, but how do we get those people into OTAB to have a say in Ontario skills

training today? That's one of the fundamental flaws, and we over here ask the minister to change that.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'd like to congratulate the member for Scarborough-Agincourt on his comments with respect to this bill.

The member for Scarborough-Agincourt did refer to a wide range of areas, but one of the areas that I did pick up and which I did appreciate was, how are we going to stop all of this unemployment, which he referred to, that seems to be more in the province of Ontario than the rest of this country? How are we going to stop the job losses? How are we going to stop the companies closing down, the plants closing down, the companies moving to the United States? How are we going to encourage investment to come to this province from outside, within the country and from outside this country? How are we going to do that?

Are we going to do it with a bill such as this? Would you invest in this province if you came and saw a provincial government such as this implementing these policies that are going to be creating a bureaucracy that is now being compared to the Workers' Compensation Board, which many of us spend hours and hours trying to justify to our constituents as to how it's operating? This is a policy that's now going to cost the taxpayers and business in this province \$2 billion, with the whole issue of lack of accountability, a system that's going to be run by a small number of people and not the wide range that it should and that will simply destroy this economy.

Will this bill really educate and re-educate the people of this province? That is, I'm sure, what the government's intending to do, but will it really do that? Because we do have some very effective systems that are currently operating.

So the member for Scarborough-Agincourt certainly should be congratulated for all of the wide range of issues that he raised, but I think this is the best one. Would you invest in Ontario with a policy such as this that is going to be put forward in this province?

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Scarborough-Agincourt, you have two minutes to reply.

Mr Phillips: I appreciate the comments of the members. I think, firstly, I should acknowledge that the original idea for much of this training came out of something called the Premier's Council, and there was a report issued by the old government, the Liberal government. I understand that and recognize and accept that, and I accept many of the objectives of this program: the partnerships, the need for training, the need for apprenticeship programs.

But the fundamental issue that all of us should wrestle with, if we can set aside our partisan thoughts for just a minute, is: Is it right to set it up as, to use the jargon around here, an independent schedule 4 agency? I submit it's not. I submit it's going to be a mistake to take out of the public's hands and put into this independent agency something this fundamental.

Now, maybe I know how the minister got there, because certainly the OFL has been advocating this as strongly as it possibly could. They believe totally in this. They believe in it. They want to get it out of government. They want the independent agency and—dare I say?—

they'll get a lot of power out of it. I think they'd be the first to admit they will have a lot of power. They will have a huge stake in it. They will in some respects, in my opinion, be able to control it. Yes, they've only got eight of the 22 seats, but I think they'll have control of it.

That isn't the fundamental issue for me. The fundamental issue is, is it right as a matter of public policy to do this? I'd ask particularly the backbench government members, because I think you can think independently about this, to take a good, hard look at that precedent. Because I can agree with much of what we're trying to accomplish here, I agree with many of the objectives, but this one is dangerous.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate? The member for Markham.

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Mr Cousens: I have a number of remarks to make on Bill 96, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. I notice that in reviewing the bill—and you always have to go back to the bill itself to just find out what it means—it's being brought forward by the "minister responsible for OTAB project."

Mr Tilson: A new ministry.

Mr Cousens: It looks like another new ministry, a new special relationship for the minister. It's not the Minister of Colleges and Universities; it's not Skills Development. It's something new that's come along, and again they're just slipping something in.

I think of what Alvin Toffler talked about when he wrote *Future Shock*, that what we would see as we reached the latter part of the 20th century is that the rate of change would increase and change itself would become the most difficult thing for people to deal with. Certainly the members of this Legislature since September 6, 1990, have seen a great deal of change. This government has brought it on, touching just about every area that affects the people of the province of Ontario.

If the province were moving ahead in a way with which we could agree, then there would be far more unanimity and less discord in this House. But what we're seeing is the government coming in—and when I see them touching education, there is an effort there to move toward destreaming, a whole new approach for young people in grade 9. The intentions might be noble, but it's coming in effective September 1993: massive changes to the way education is going to be done, an example of change that this government felt it had to bring in.

The Ministry of Health: Again, the intentions may be correct to try to get people out of the hospital more quickly, but you look at the number of hospital beds being closed, look at the way in which the hospital system is being treated punitively and the way in which this government is cutting back on health care, which is really one of the most important parts of our social fabric.

When we saw 4,000 people of all ages here at the Legislature last week, that was change, because you saw a group of people, the developmentally handicapped, coming in from across the province, crying out to the government,

saying, "Please give us the money to continue our workshops and to allow ourselves to continue to work." These are multiply handicapped people who are dependent upon others to help them to sustain their existence. Yet this government, in removing funding for the triministry projects and for workshops, has shown, again—it's almost a vengeance for the social needs of those very special people in our society.

Another change has been in the whole emphasis which this bill is part of, in Bill 40 and the implementation of new legislation that takes Ontario, effective January 1, 1993, into a new era of union development. I'm in favour of unions. I think there's an important place for unions in society, yet the structure that the government has given for unions to develop, without bringing forward new democratization for the unions, without bringing in some way of understanding the needs of business, without really understanding the way in which Bill 40 is going to affect investment in the province of Ontario, in a single-minded way this government came forward with Bill 40, new labour legislation effective January 1, 1993.

What I'm trying to point out is that in so many areas where there had been some comfort factor of experience over the years, where people had come to know how things would be, this government has taken it upon itself to set new rules, new standards and new systems in motion that will for ever change the look of Ontario.

For our own communities in York, Durham and Peel, Bill 143 is another example of where this government unilaterally, arbitrarily, has come forward with a bill that is going to place landfill sites in York, Durham and Peel. It doesn't matter that the people are screaming out, knowing that this government is violating so many of the sensitivities of the community, which are to retain the natural heritage of the Rouge Valley or farm land that is irreplaceable or the Oak Ridges moraine.

Despite the fact that communities involved have asked this government to rethink and reconsider, the government, again, without showing or demonstrating concern—I'm sure they have it, but it has not been manifested by their actions or their words—has gone ahead and steamrolled ahead bringing in the changes that will cause landfill sites in York, Durham and Peel, without looking at rail haul or other options. Here is a government, instead of allowing the municipalities to look after it themselves, which is bringing in the changes. They're forcing the changes upon them.

You're talking about a government that's building a deficit, a deficit that will, by the time this government's last breath expires, reach possibly \$100 billion. The accumulated deficit for the province of Ontario could well reach \$100 billion. This year it's been stretched from \$10 billion to \$13 billion. Who knows how large it's going to be?

Change, ladies and gentlemen, is rampant in Ontario. If these changes were for the betterment of our society, if you were seeing changes that were helping the people who are in need, then you would have the support of all members of the House. I suppose if it were a minority government, this government wouldn't be bringing in such controversial pieces of legislation. But it is not a minority government. The New Democrats have a huge majority. They

vote en bloc. Although members within the New Democratic caucus will disagree with certain policies—they did disagree before they were elected, as they did with the market value assessment—they will vote with the government when it comes time to vote. We saw that today. Malkowski, the member from the Leaside area, who had spoken against it, wasn't in the House to vote on market value assessment. You had several cabinet ministers—Mr Silipo for one, Churley for another—who had said that they were opposed to market value assessment before they were elected; now that they're elected they take quite a different position.

So what the province is dealing with is surprise after surprise after surprise, and we will wake up in 1995, when it's the end of this government, and say, "How can we unscramble this egg?" because what we've known and built over the years has suddenly been smashed and smattered and broken and will be hard to repair.

We will have to begin with a fresh dream and a new vision and a way to make this province alive and well and whole and healthy again, to create a climate where business will want to invest and be part of it, where people will share in the solution, where we will be building a whole structure again where Ontario will again be the engine of Canada. That has been the strength of Ontario over the years. That has been our hope, because we have been able to build a strong machinery that has allowed Ontario to be the production centre of Canada.

We've been in a recession. You can't blame the recession on the New Democrats; it's something that's far more of a world phenomenon. But this government has exacerbated the problem by virtue of its policies. They have taken away the confidence of the business people and they have caused people to become more filled with despair. What you've got is a government that is antagonistic to business rather than a government that wants to work with business; a government that's willing to set up its own rules rather than work with others to try to develop ones where there is a consensus building; a government that's always willing to vote things down because it will only support what it presents and nothing anyone else brings forward.

If this government could start by looking at some of the things that are flawed and broken right now and try to repair those things so that we could deal with the issues that affect the people in our province, that would be a beginning that all of us could cherish and be proud of.

Today in my mail came a letter from the Ontario Association of the Unemployed Worker. It's hard to believe that such a group would be created during a socialist government; none the less, here it is. What they're talking about is the failure of the Labour ministry's Transitions program.

Why doesn't the honourable minister, or whoever can in this government, deal with some of the issues that people have who are out of a job and want help to get back in the workplace? Instead, the government comes forward with Bill 96 and says, "We've got the answer and it's going to be something wholly new," when we know that if you took some of the existing programs and services, repaired them, made them work, made them respond to the needs of the

people who are applying, then that government would be doing something worthwhile.

People who are applying for the Transitions program—and this is no different from what I've heard from a constituent I talked with today, and another one last week; on a regular basis—who have been in one profession and, now that they're unemployed, are looking to get started in another, the sense of urgency they have to find something is very real because their unemployment insurance will run out, they're going to be short of money, and they know that to get back in the workforce, time is against them. It's their biggest single enemy. If they're over 50, they have a sense of panic that they're not going to have that many more years to work, in order to build up a retirement plan. They want to get working quickly, so they apply to the Transitions program to get some help.

How long does it take to have an application processed in the Transitions program?

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): You'd be 70.

Mr Cousens: It's true. You'd almost be 70 years of age if you started off when you were 50 to get the application. At least you will age very quickly while you wait, because it's approximately 22 to 23 weeks for your application to be processed and then you wait another 13 to 15 weeks in order to get into the program; a total of 37 weeks before a person can begin to start his Transitions program.

As it says in the letter: "What does the government want these people to do while they're waiting? Run out of UIC? Go to welfare? That's what's happening." And I agree with the writer. That is what's happening.

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The honourable minister who is responsible now for OTAB projects is a very senior member of the Rae government. I challenge Mr Allen, who was a friend of mine before he became a cabinet minister—

Hon Mr Allen: Gee thanks, Don. At least I got that much out of you.

Mr Cousens: These are real people out there who are suffering because there isn't something for them. No one is disputing the fact that it's a 35- to 40-week wait in order to get enrolled in OTAB. There's no reason why, with computers, with the systems that are in place, if we want to help people and help them quickly and generate enthusiasm back in the economy, that couldn't be reduced to 10 weeks. It could be reduced to even less time if they really wanted to.

I challenge the government: Instead of starting afresh with a brand-new bill and a brand-new program, fix up some of the essential programs that are there now so that the—

Hon Mr Allen: That's not a program; that's a structure.

Mr Cousens: But OTAB will have within it the whole Transitions program, and that will be all part of the new master program that's being developed. Let there be some enthusiasm to solve the problems within the existing areas government has right now. That has to be a challenge. No one should be able to sit back and accept passively and complacently the fact that it takes 37 weeks to get accepted into a program.

Mr Jerry Kocian wrote this letter, and I thank him for copying me on it. He sent it to all MPPs; not just that I'm the special one. Every one of us got it. The New Democrats would have received it as well. What will the New Democrats do on this? I challenge them. If you're going to go ahead with this bill as well, simultaneously start today to do something about the Transitions program so that those people who are in need have a chance to get on with it.

These are tough times in Ontario. They are tough times in the York region. I have the Labour Market Bulletin York Region for July to September 1992. I read it as I prepared for this evening, and I would like to put on the record just how bleak the economy is for the people in the greater Toronto area.

"The economy appears to be worsening in the greater Toronto area," it says. "The average monthly unemployment rate jumped to 12% for the quarter, compared to 9.9% a year earlier. It averaged 11.4% for the last quarter. There has also been a year-over-year employment loss this quarter of 72,500 jobs. It has been 10 quarters since the Toronto area labour market last posted year-over-year employment growth." They go on to explain within this document just how tough it is out there.

I cry for those people who are looking for a job under a government that has not been successful in developing programs that stimulate economic investment and economic growth in a climate where people will want to invest in Ontario to start creating new jobs. That is the challenge I see: Instead of putting all our energies into OTAB or into the legislation we're dealing with or into legislation like Bill 40, this government should say, "We are really concerned about the unemployment and about the structure of the economy in this province and we are going to start doing something that's concrete and specific."

Frank Miller, for all he was criticized in 1982, brought in tax incentives by which those companies that had a profit could reinvest that profit back in their company and weren't taxed on it. There are many mechanisms where you can use tax as an incentive for people to invest their money back into their businesses and invest in the province, and cause outsiders to bring their money into the province because they see this as a choice place in which to place their money.

I'm concerned when I look across the floor. I see a government that says all the words, yet the actions don't bespeak of what it says. When I saw the number of young people last summer who couldn't find a job—we're talking about the real people of the world: my son, his friends, my daughter's friends, who were unable to find jobs last summer. The government came back with a very special program, but not enough people have stopped to look at the numbers.

Under the summer student youth program, which was financed by the government, in 1989 the government invested \$10.5 million for 4,000 jobs; the following year, in 1990, again it invested \$10.5 million for 4,000 jobs. In 1991, what did the government do? It invested \$8.3 million for 3,200 jobs. So began the trend of the New Democrats. They had all the words for summer jobs, but so began, in 1991, the trend of cutting back on summer jobs.

During the winter last year, they removed the planting of trees so that young people who would be working in the summertime planting trees in northern Ontario, again a job for students in university—that was cut back so much that many of them couldn't find jobs.

We saw a situation develop last summer, after the riots on Yonge Street, where the government set up a special program under the parliamentary assistant to the Premier himself. Zanana Akande came out with \$20 million for a special one-time fund for young people during the summer. But it was focused primarily for black young people; it had a racial twist to it. In fact, it had a real slant against those who were not of special minority groups.

Anything this government touches, it has a way of making it turn sour. It was a chance, when you put the money into it, to let all benefit, but that was not to be the case. We had something develop in Ontario, one of the change mechanisms I referred to when I began this address, and that had to do with reverse discrimination, which was then being encouraged by the Rae government.

So as we look at this special legislation, we're dealing with the basic facts that over 550,000 Ontario workers are unemployed right now. One in four of these people have been unemployed for more than six months. Over one million people are now dependent on social assistance here in Ontario, and budget projections estimate that there will be a \$1-billion increase in social assistance in 1992-93 over the previous year; a \$1-billion increase in social assistance.

What we're really seeing is that the problems of unemployment and the hurt for people who are unemployed is increasing at a phenomenal rate. Each month, over 30,000 people in our province are running out of unemployment insurance benefits. I don't know how that would be, but I know that if you have a mortgage, a family and responsibilities, and pride in saying: "I've worked hard all my life. I believe I have the strength and enthusiasm and desire to work, yet I can't find a job. I've been on unemployment for a period of time and now it expires"—you've got 30,000 of them expiring a month.

In the month of December, with Christmas coming up, how many of those people are going to be able to provide the extras for their families and their loved ones that they would like to do, that they could do when they were employed? Instead of having the kind of financial resources that they always took for granted when they were healthy and strong and working, they're now becoming that larger group of people who are reliant on social assistance for their benefits and less reliant on themselves, and therefore more and more susceptible to society's vulnerabilities. They are the ones who, after a period of time, having lost their pride, having lost their work, will lose their desire to work and to be active contributors to society again.

We're dealing with a society today that requires a special understanding by government and by people in government, where we're able to go back to the drawing board and work together to come up with strategies and designs that get everyone working together and bring forward legislation that will not drive a wedge between labour and business, not drive a wedge between all the members of the House, find something where every member of this

House will come forward and say: "We agree, we want to do something together. We want to help build and create."

Instead, what we're faced with is OTAB. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board will become synonymous with another large organization that the people of Ontario have come to know over the years.

2200

Probably the best comparison the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board could be compared to is the WCB. I wonder how many people who are watching TV tonight at 10 o'clock will know what WCB is; it is Workers' Compensation Board. You will know a number of years from now—maybe not all that long from now—that OTAB is the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. This is going to be almost as big a board, as influential a board, as the Workers' Compensation Board is to the whole employment structure in Ontario. Yes, OTAB will become as much of an influence and driving force on what you can do in the programs and the training that are provided by the province.

As with the Workers' Compensation Board, which gets its money through a payroll tax, so too will Bill 96. The day may well come when this will be subscribed to by a payroll tax, and for those people who are out in business trying to do something, that's how it's going to be paid for.

I suggest that people who are watching this Legislature at this point take the time and phone the Legislature to get a copy of Bill 96. Call Richard Allen, the minister responsible for the OTAB project, to find out, from him, his press release and his information.

When you start reading it, you'll realize the objects of the bill; these are the real principles and the things the government wants to accomplish through it. There are, as I counted, some 18 specific suggestions that the government will follow by implementing this bill.

If I had more time, I would go through each of these seriatim and have a chance to discuss them. They sound noble and they sound as if the government has a good idea, but the problem we have is that when you start seeing all the existing programs and everything else that is going on, one begins to question why. Why do we need another government agency bent on reforming the way we look at job retraining? Can't we somehow find ways within existing mechanisms without setting up another massive super-structure?

People may not realize that I'm on the public accounts committee, along with the honourable member for Dufferin-Peel my good friend from Orangeville. We'll be discussing how the Workers' Compensation Board is in the process now of building a new structure for the WCB when there is space in the greater Toronto area available at about \$20 per square foot. The cost per square foot for the WCB, if I remember it, is about \$380 per square foot; an incredible factor that the government is considering spending on the Workers' Compensation Board. It's this kind of infrastructure that starts to build around these new crown corporations that are formed.

This government, I remember it wasn't all that long ago—I guess it was the Liberals that formed the metropolitan government, Metropolitan Toronto, another government level, which is now the seventh-largest level of

government in Canada, and they just had to build their structure. They just had the grand opening of their new washrooms and building not all that long ago.

Everyone who comes along and says, "Let's have a new agency," better realize that the moment you establish a government agency, it is going to want territory, it is going to want buildings, it is going to want mortar, it is going to want something to point to that is really its.

OTAB looks more like a bureaucracy and less like job creation and retraining, unless you expect to solve the unemployment problem by giving the newly created jobs to run OTAB to the unemployed. I really wonder whether or not the government has thought about what it's doing. Is this going to be a way of just hiring some of the people so they have a job? I'm just sort of tongue in cheek.

I worry about the structure this new agency is going to have. The fact is that this agency will have a number of different chairpeople and what they'll do is—you'll have such a variety of people. You've got seven directors for business, seven directors for labour and then you're going to have a number for educators and trainers, and then you're going to have one for francophones, one for disabilities, one for racial minorities, one for women. You're talking about a bureaucracy that is nothing more than getting large. It is absolutely huge, having some 22 representatives, full-time executives. You're talking in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars to be spent just creating this special structure.

As we come along, we will be having all kinds of regulations that will be coming out, regulations that will be brought through by the establishment of networks of local boards, the establishment of councils. These will all be remunerated; special reference groups, special decision-making groups. This whole thing becomes a massive gathering of the bureaucracy to come along and build another whole system.

I have loads of questions to ask, and with the limited time I know other members of our caucus will be raising them, but I ask why has the educational community been limited to only two seats on the board? I have to believe that education has to have a greater role in this. I have to know how they are going to raise the money. Is it going to be a payroll tax? I believe it will be, but I wonder at the effect the payroll tax will have, how it impairs job creation, how it hurts economic growth, how it puts a squeeze on small business.

How much is OTAB going to cost? It is one of the issues I raised yesterday with market value assessment, and I raised it when we were talking about Bill 143, the Waste Management Act. I was saying, "What is the economic analysis of what this government's doing?" We do not know the future costs of what this government is talking about with OTAB. I ask them, how much is it going to cost? I'm saying, how large a bureaucracy is it going to be? Will they simply set up this whole new layer of bureaucracy, ending up costing more than all the initiatives you have in place?

I remember when the Liberals started making changes to the rent reform law. They took the costs, from when the Tories were in power in 1984-85, from \$8 million a year to

over \$50 million a year, and when you're starting from nothing, you people will be able to outdo the Liberals very, very easily.

As we look at the future, what we really have to say is, is this good for Ontario? Is this good for the people who are hurting right now? Is this going to be a guaranteed way of helping us strengthen and build Ontario's economy? I have to say the answer is no.

We need to do more for labour. We need to do more to make sure that we build a strong economic engine again in Ontario. We need to get things going. But the way to get them going isn't necessarily to start a whole new bureaucracy such as we're being shown here in OTAB. What we need to do is develop and find ways of working with the groups that are there now, and if they're not working, fine-tune them and develop new legislation that can help them work. We need to work with business and labour. We need to work with the educators. Everybody needs to come together.

I'm the honorary chairman of the York Technology Association and one of the major thrusts we have in that association, as a high-technology group, is to work with the universities and the community colleges to make sure that the students and graduates are the kind of people who can contribute to our society and take an active role.

Everybody can be involved in the solution. What we need to do is not have government running it all the time, but get the whole of the Legislature and the business community working together to solve these problems that we have as a society here in Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr O'Connor: I just want to comment on some of what I've heard, some of the thoughtful and thought-provoking comments by the member for Markham.

Job losses: He talked about job losses in Ontario. In fact, they're higher than everywhere else, the reason being that we had the largest manufacturing base in the country. Free trade, high interest rates, the high dollar certainly had an impact on that, but of course we didn't have anything to do with that—we're a provincial government. We have to take a look at it. Employment is leaving. We've got to somehow figure out how to bring that back, and OTAB is one of the ways of bringing back some people, getting some training. If we offer a trained workforce, we'll have a way of bringing people back.

There's a lot of people out there hurting right now and we've got to do something now. We're talking about something that's going to be there in the future, but right now we're working on something, and Jobs Ontario is one of those things that we're working on. I know it's something that's going to be offered in the interim while we get people back to work, and we've got to do that.

2210

There's the Jobs Ontario hotline number, 1-800-387-5656. I encourage people to call that number, because we're talking about jobs now and people collecting assistance who are suffering now. We've got to try to encourage people back to work.

It's too easy to get wrapped up in the rhetoric of this place and talk about, "Well, we really can't do anything because we've got no money." Last week I arranged a meeting up in Pefferlaw, and we got together people who are injured workers. There are workers who have suffered as a result of working in a workplace and getting injured, and there is no place for those people to go. They get frustrated and they get angry and they get mad and they want to go talk to somebody. So we arranged a meeting and we had a steering committee struck that night to bring people together so we can talk, so the injured workers can get together.

That's what we've got to look at. We've got to look at things very pragmatically and look for the future. In my own little way, I do it for the injured workers. OTAB is for the future.

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): A former speaker, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, very clearly, concisely, calmly—in spite of considerable noise and heckling from the other side—and firmly pointed out the dangers of setting up an independent agency and the government thereby abdicating its responsibility.

I have to agree with that, and I find it absolutely ironic that while the government is proposing an independent agency for OTAB, at the same time it's determined to dissolve an elected public utilities commission in the first term of office in London-Middlesex: completely opposite. I asked of a government member, in committee, "Why would you dissolve the London Public Utilities Commission?" The answer was, "It's good government, because the council of the city will run these services."

Now, this is a complete about-face. In the case of the PUC in London, it's elected by the people for a three-year term. They're being dissolved, guillotined, at the end of one year. Why? What's the difference? Why is it so important to do that with an elected body while in this case we're establishing an absolutely independent agency?

That's what's happening, and I had to bring that out because I think it's awfully important and now is the time to consider it. I know the government won't appreciate the comments or the criticism, but I feel so very strongly that this is the time to take the time to do it correctly. If there are dangers, and there are, in setting it up as an independent agency, why not set it up as a reporting agency responsible to the minister and later it can be changed?

Mr Tilson: I always admire the member for Markham and his very thoughtful presentations to this House, and this is certainly an example, his presentation today on this Bill 96.

I think the main issue I obtained from the member for Markham is the creation of this unbelievable bureaucracy. Even when you look at the bill itself, Bill 96, you can almost take sections at random. Subsection 4(2) is an example that simply jumps out at you. It jumps out and smacks of bureaucracy:

"(2) In carrying out its objects, OTAB shall,

"(a) operate in a manner that is consistent with the economic and social policies, including labour market policies, of the government of Ontario."

In other words, it's just going to create more bureaucracy and more and more bureaucracy.

Mr Cousens, the member for Markham, has given the example of the Workers' Compensation Board. Many of us worry when we hear of the Workers' Compensation Board planning to construct a new building that none of us want and none of us can afford. There's no question there will be a need for more bureaucrats and more staff who are going to assist in this brand-new operation, and you're going to need a building to operate them.

Is that the way to find jobs? Yes, it is; it will be one way of finding jobs for the government, I suppose. But the trouble is, can we afford it? Can the rest of us afford it? We've got young people in this province who are trying to find jobs to pay for the increased tuition fees they're going to have to pay. We find middle-aged people who are finding it difficult to keep up, to be properly educated, and not under the system that this government's putting forward. And then we have seniors who need a job simply to keep up.

So the whole process has turned into an absolute shambles. I think the member for Markham is quite right, that all this bill is really doing is creating a bureaucracy that we don't need.

Mr Bisson: I listened with some interest to the comments from the member for Markham. I would just say that some of the descriptions he used to describe what OTAB is about were more political than having to do with the substance of the bill and what the regulations are about, and what OTAB is about, for that matter.

He describes OTAB as being the creation of another thing like the Workers' Compensation Board. Nothing could be further from the truth. Most of us, on all sides of the House, recognize the problems with the WCB, and that is something this government is dealing with. It's a problem that has been creeping up on governments for the past 50 years, for a number of different reasons we can get into in another debate. But to try to equate that to what OTAB is, is really off base.

OTAB is about bringing partners together to make decisions about what training should be within the workplace, based on the needs of the employees and based on the needs of the employers. I would say to the member for Markham, who knows best how to do that than the people themselves who are the very people who in the end would utilize that training?

It's not to say that governments don't have a say in it. Obviously, government has a say in that, because it will be brokering a lot of its services through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and others in order to deliver that training within the workplace, but clearly it is a real natural fit to involve both the employers and the employees inside the process of making decisions about what kind of training is needed within the workplace, the development of a policy and framework and how that training is to be developed.

As I said at the beginning of my comments, the member makes his comments more for the political mode than he does for the content of the bill.

I would just say one last thing, and I've said this before. I think we need to find a way in this place to deal

with the substance of issues, to get into the real business of what we're here for, which is debating bills for the public good of the people of the province of Ontario, and staying away from some of the political rhetoric we hear in this place day in and day out. That's part of the system we have, and I think we all need to work on it to be able to work on behalf of the people.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Markham, you have two minutes.

Mr Cousens: First of all, I thank the member for Dufferin-Peel for his remarks. I don't know where the member for Brant-Haldimand was when he started bringing up annexation and stuff, but that can be his world.

As to the remarks of the member for Cochrane South, I have to say I don't know how you separate politics from the reality we're dealing with here in Ontario. If you're not proud of being a politician and you can't deal with the politics of it, then it's too hot for you in the kitchen. So I don't know where you're coming from.

To the member for Durham-York and the fact that you personally can do something, I ask you as a member of the government side: You got a letter today from the Ontario Association of Unemployed Workers. Here is a program, the Transitions program, where your Minister of Labour or your minister of OTAB haven't done anything. Can you take it on yourself to go after them to see if you can do something to reduce the 22 to 23 weeks' waiting time, the 37 weeks total before the person gets started in the Transitions program. You can meet with the people all you want, but you're down here to help government work better. If you could do that, then you'd begin to see something happen. Serve the people of your riding by getting in here and getting the government and the ministries to be responsive to the people who are writing in to them.

The whole apparatus of the government, the machinery of it, is grinding to a halt, because the New Democrats, as a whole, don't have that sense. You know how to do that from an assembly line or from your background. Bring that down here to Queen's Park so that the academics and the people who are running it learn some of the practical reality, because friends of yours and mine are out there looking for us to make this government efficient and function.

It's not going to function just by bringing in OTAB. You've got to make the systems within it start to come together and realize their potential. This government isn't doing it. If you backbenchers would help do it, then maybe we'd see some improvement.

2220

The Deputy Speaker: Any further debate?

Mr Tony Rizzo (Oakwood): Bill 96, which we are debating today, is of extraordinary importance for the province of Ontario. Labour force development is one of the cornerstones on which to rebuild our economy and help ensure that our children and grandchildren continue to enjoy what we have always had in this province: one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Competitiveness has become a very familiar word these days, in the last few years, yet many of our youth are leaving school today without the skills to be competitive.

Skills training, retraining and/or adjustment programs must be seen as an integral part of our school system. We must apply to this bill most of the questions now being asked about our school system.

I am concerned that we do not have the information on how OTAB will function on a day-to-day basis. Many important items such as regulations and budget are left for future consideration. We have to ask ourselves now how this new agency, as designed in Bill 96, represents a marked improvement over what we have today.

Will OTAB be able to provide alternatives in the field of skills training and readjustment for Ontario's labour force, and if so, when? Immediately? In the near future? Looking at the near future, will OTAB be able to address the problems of sectors in need of human resources? Will it be able to identify those problems and sectors and implement new programs?

I am totally in favour of the concept that underlies this legislation. Putting the administration of all programs, new and existing, under one roof is a major improvement. The present situation, with programs spread through a number of ministries and agencies throughout the province, is a very difficult one both for people who need training and for administrators. OTAB will help the provincial government eliminate useless programs, identify areas in need, and intervene with greater efficacy when problems are identified. I hope it will also enable the government of Ontario to develop enhanced federal-provincial programs in this vital area.

Having said this, I am convinced that we have to be certain of what we are putting under the OTAB umbrella and why. Have we looked at other systems of this kind around the world? I am not an expert in this field, but it appears to me that there is no hint in this legislation that we have taken notice of probably the best example of skills development and adjustment programs in the world, namely, Germany's. I would like one day soon to be able to describe OTAB as the agency which brought Ontario's skills and adjustment programs to a level comparable to those of what was known as West Germany, or better. That would be evidence of the success of this legislation.

Let me address some of the clauses of the proposed legislation. Clause 14 of section 4 of the bill states as one of OTAB's objects: "To promote appropriate and sustainable levels of investment in labour force development." In my opinion, this clause should be broadened so as to define in greater detail the framework under which the public and private sectors will share these costs. If we are able to assure all employers that their investments in their workforce will not be detrimental to other investments or other aspects of their day-to-day operations, I am certain that employers will be more than happy to invest in their workforce. I am convinced that there is no better place to state and define this possible framework than in this legislation, so as to guarantee broad public debate in the event that changes become necessary.

Clause 15 of the same section talks about the effective use of Ontario's educational and training resources. Does this mean that OTAB will possibly have a say in curricula preparation, at least for certain schools? I know that protocols will

have to be signed between OTAB and different ministries at a later date to detail the relationship between the agency and the ministries, but for such an important initiative, once again, I would prefer to see more details set out in the bill itself so as to assure the widest public scrutiny in case of change.

Clause 2 of section 9 delineates the makeup of the board of directors of OTAB. I applaud our government's effort to ensure cooperation among the different players in the Ontario labour market, but I would prefer to see the legislation amended towards a simpler board of directors.

In my opinion, the directors should be chosen from three groups only: labour, business, and educators and trainers. A provision should be added to the bill—although I am convinced that clause 4 in the same section 9, in conjunction with other similar clauses in different sections of Bill 96, has the same effect—that requires these three groups to appoint representatives reflective of the gender balance and cultural mosaic of Ontario and who will be able to address the needs of disabled and of other special-needs groups. Government will ensure that these provisions are respected by confirming only those appointees who conform to these provisions.

Furthermore, to avoid the stalemates between business and labour that have troubled other agencies, I would like to see the bill amended in the following manner. Instead of two co-chairs and a total of 22 board members with a right to vote, there should be only 21 directors with a right to vote, named by the three abovementioned groups, and one single chairman, chosen by the provincial government from the board of directors. The chair would cast his or her ballot only in the case of a tie.

Another recommendation I would like to advance is that we give the government agencies committee of this House a say in the selection process of board members, not only in the ratification procedure. This will, once again, give the public a larger say in the process. Committee work at this earlier stage will also, in my opinion, give committee members more freedom of choice, providing them with the possibility of reviewing all the candidates and not only the intended appointees chosen by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Finally, let me conclude by applauding the government's effort in establishing OTAB. This legislation will give Ontario a superb tool for dealing with skills development and adjustment programs, and all of us know how necessary such a tool is.

I hope the various stakeholders will make a success out of the OTAB project, that they will be able to reach the necessary compromises. To stalemate this agency because of partisan interests, be they those of business, labour or the other groups represented in the board of directors, will be a direct hit to a superior interest: the wellbeing of the whole province of Ontario.

2230

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I thank the honourable member for Oakwood and invite questions and/or comments. Any further participation in this debate?

Mr Curling: Are they going to respond?

The Speaker: There can't be a response if there were no questions.

Mr Curling: I'd love to participate.

The Speaker: You would appreciate the opportunity to speak, and of course I recognize the member for Scarborough North.

Mr Curling: At this late hour I know that many of the population across Ontario and I'm sure Canada are tuned in to listen to this very important debate. Of course Bill 96, which is the topic of debate, An Act to establish the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, how important that is to us, extremely important legislation. I think I should start by doing just a quick background, because I'd like to make some comments, and to avoid maybe some of the rattle that may come from opposition, just to say where I'm coming from in my perspective of this debate.

I spent 14 years as an administrator in a community college, a place where training was conducted and continues to be conducted. I've seen many people from different walks of life who have come in to be trained and to be retrained and therefore my interest here is very keen.

I've had the opportunity, as you may recall, Mr Speaker, to be Minister of Skills Development and to put in place some legislation to assist in some of the training. Maybe with a bit of envy, I'd hoped I would have been able to introduce a training adjustment board as it is being introduced today. So I want to commend the minister first for bringing this forward. Mark you, it's taken him two years to do so, but it is here, which gives us all an opportunity to make our criticisms and our input.

Ontario is going through some of the most exciting changes of any First World country. I think one of the challenges that we have more than any other country is the diverse population we have. People come from all over the world to settle in this country and to settle in this province. So that itself brings a challenge to our education system. With that in mind, I realize that the opposition, the government, educators and all those who will participate would have to look rather carefully into putting some structure in place that we can benefit from.

We must commend, first, the Conservative government, when it was in power and brought in the community colleges, having, I think, 23 of those community colleges today. They play a very important role in training our workforce. Although there are community colleges and there are universities, most of the training is not done in those formal institutions. Most training is done in private institutions or private companies, and some are doing an excellent job. I just want to put that in perspective.

But I want to go back, first, to what's happening right now in this province about education, because it's important. Let me start from literacy. I know you, Mr Speaker, have had a keen interest in the literacy rate of this province, because that's the foundation, the start of how we educate our people and how they can be trained.

We know that the adult population here in Ontario runs at about, they say, 25%, and I challenge that to say about 30% of our adults are functionally illiterate, meaning that they cannot operate in their own language, and we're

speaking about English or French, which are the languages of our province. That's high. So the challenge ahead for this minister and the ministry to train people, the adults, for instance, or retrain people who are functionally illiterate, is quite a challenge.

But what has happened to the education system here—and the Minister of Education is here today, and I'm so glad that he's here—since this government has been in power, we have seen an increase in tuition fees, making it more difficult for people to access education and training. We have seen the elimination of the Ontario student award program grants, and they say that will help people to have more access to education and training. I can't comprehend that.

I would like some of those backbenchers there, when you get your minister aside, to ask him to explain that to you. How is it that tuition fees have increased, grants have disappeared, and listen to this one, Mr Speaker—this is the one that baffles me more than anything else—loans. They said more loans are available to more people. Loans are available to more, but less loans. If I have less to go to school, in order to borrow to get my education therefore, I have to come up with more of my tuition fees that have gone up. Therefore, the access to education and training has become more difficult under this government. I would say to them, shame on them.

This is a government which had one time spoke about eliminating tuition fees. My two daughters, who were at university at the time, were asking me, "Why is it that your government, Dad, did not proceed to eliminate tuition fees, as promised by this government?" I said I commend them for making that promise but the second step is to implement that promise. Now what does that tell you? The access to training, the access to education is more difficult under this government. I know it's a matter of restraint.

If there is one minister over there that I have great respect for, it's the Minister of Colleges and Universities and the Minister of Skills Development, quite an honourable man. But I know that maybe his Treasurer had pulled back all his funds from him and he's not able to offer the grants to those students who are entering universities or community colleges for training.

I gather too the Transitions program under the Minister of Skills Development, which I had the opportunity to introduce—and the minister may correct me in his comments afterwards—I'm gathering that the backlog there is tremendous, and people are just not getting to that \$5,000 in order for them to be retrained. Everything in this government seems to be more difficult in order to get training and retraining.

Now here we come with OTAB, a bold move by this government to set up a huge bureaucracy to control or mastermind or strategize training. I think our workforce is about 5 million people in the workforce, somewhere about 4.5 million people in the workforce. Therefore, we have quite a sizeable workforce in which to train. Most of our source of labour, as you know, and the supply that contributes to having a workforce is the birth rate, and the workforce participation rate, those who are participating in the workforce, the rates of immigration, have a striking importance as to how we participate in this workforce. The

birth rate has dropped, so there's a challenge there. We also know that the participation in the workforce has increased, because more women are coming into the workforce, therefore more training has to be done.

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The third factor I mentioned about immigration is a very important one, and the reason I emphasize that one, if we're formulating a strategy of training, if we're putting a training board together, we must make sure that those people who are there will be sensitive to the entire workforce. Workforces are coming, as I said, from various countries, with various languages, with different sensitivities to the workforce, different religions. As I read this Bill 96, I'm extremely concerned. I'm concerned that the composition of those people on it will not adequately represent the kind of training that we so require in this province.

As I said earlier on, the community colleges have played an extremely important role in training and education, and only two individuals will be serving on that board. What bothers me here is that the others, 19 or I think it's 21 that are on the board, have no knowledge about curriculum or setting up programs—

Hon Mr Allen: Nonsense. There's a visible minority representative on there who comes from Peterborough, from Trent University. How can you say that?

Mr Curling: Then sometimes when we talk about ethnic representation, the minister jumps up and says, "Oh there's a visible minority from Peterborough." This is supposed to solve the problem itself. I'm not talking about whether we have a visible minority on there or not, and the minister jumps to defend the fact that the Peterborough individual who will be on this board is an educator. I'm saying to you that only two of these people are sitting on the board. That is not adequate enough.

Then, of course, there are the unions, and I think they should be there, definitely, but these are organized unions. The minister, and I'm glad he's here, knows too that many, many people are not members of the unions and, of course, the comment, I gather, of some minister—I'm not quite sure if it was the said minister who had stated that if they would like to participate what they should do is join a union.

I would like to say to the NDP that this world is not a world of unions, it's a world of workers, a democratic world, whether they should join a union or not—oh, I stand corrected. I gather that you must join unions now in order to in any way participate in this government. I'm just saying to you, while you're doing that transformation of everyone being in a union, be sensitive to those who are not in unions in order that they can be represented on this board.

I'm extremely concerned that we will not be able to address the issue of training adequately. I feel that hurrying this process will cause more damage to people who want to be trained.

There are many things before this government right now which could have been addressed and I wish had been done. For instance, we have many, many trained people right now—if you recall this magnificent piece of work, the Task Force on Access to Professions and Trades in

Ontario, there are people who are trained who can't get into the workforce now because some unions are resisting these people who are coming in. I would say to the minister, if he would first have this task force recommendation implemented, many of the solutions that he has and the burden that will be placed on some of those training and retraining would have been eliminated, because these are people who are trained.

This government seems more concerned with setting up its own program for the sake of just setting up programs, and not addressing some of the issues that are currently before us. Mr Minister, I urge you to address this access to the training professions task force recommendation and some of the problems that you have in hand could be resolved.

I want to just make some quick comments about an area that I did not see represented very much here. It was mentioned, but not in much detail, about the counselling aspect, the profession of counselling. As you know, we are extremely lacking here in Ontario. In the high schools we have what we call guidance counsellors, and what those guidance counsellors do is tell the students what credits to get in order to get their grade 12 and grade 13. Nothing about career at all. When they do arrive at the community colleges or the universities, sometimes they are so confused about what profession and what training they should take that at times it becomes very difficult. I would feel that if they have an OTAB board, they should make sure that this profession is represented there, because a lot of counselling will have to take place, a lot of direction will have to be given to people in order to know what training they need, or what to be retrained in.

The difficulty that the minister and this government will have while they are creating a training strategy—which was created before—to train people—for what?—is that there are no jobs available. That's another challenge in itself.

We face an era where technology changes are so rapid that people are now wondering, "If I'm trained in this profession, within two years, will there be a job for me?" and I'll give you a little story.

When I was the Minister of Skills Development, I visited Japan and Germany and I heard many people talk about the German model etc, and say, "That's a wonderful model and maybe we should adopt it." I would urge this government: Do not adopt the German model. It will not work here. And do not adopt the Japanese model. It will not work here. And do not adopt the British model. It hasn't worked here.

As the minister knows, when I was there the backlog in the apprenticeship program was just awful. People who have done much training are still waiting for their journeyman certificates, and some of the apprenticeship programs are not being properly monitored.

I went to Japan and I was looking at one of the training programs. I went to a community college where I visited one of the labs, and the professor told me that this—and I'm not able to describe the technological term—apparatus that was on the lab table at the time was something that would be coming into the workplace within six months. I was amazed and fascinated by all the wonderful things he

was telling me. Then he moved me to another lab and he said to me, "What we're working on here in lab 2 will be out in another two years and it will make what you saw in lab 1 obsolete."

That is how fast technology is moving. What has this to do with OTAB, the representation there? We'd better make sure that the people who are on the board there understand about technological changes, understand about people from different walks of life, and make sure, when we're addressing people and directing people into the training process, that they know what they're talking about. I am saying that what we see here is not a proper representation at all.

I want to speak a little bit about employment equity and why it has a relationship to this. There are many people who are shut out of this workforce. There are many people who are unable to go into training because somehow they did not get that opportunity. Some of the discriminatory practices that are being exercised by the workplace, by institutions, by government, have kept people outside. They have kept women, they have kept the disabled, they have kept the minorities, francophones and various groups out.

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I feel that if we put a \$2-billion board—and I heard there are discrepancies whether the cost to run this program is \$2 billion or \$1.6 billion, depending on the federal government throwing in their little bit, which I don't think they will; I had problems with them putting in their money when I was the minister; it all depends on if they do that—we have got to make sure that the representation there is adequate and people get access to that training.

It has to be accountable, and I think it must be accountable directly to the minister. We see the accountability of the Workers' Compensation Board every time we draw the illustration, the mess that it is in. Right now, I think we should have a hands-on approach to OTAB, not hands-off or at-arm's-length. The government must monitor it very closely. But it seems to me that the government wants to dissociate very much, so that when it flops, they can say, "It is the people who ran this; we thought they knew best but it was not run in a proper way." I think it has to be on a hands-on basis where the government must monitor this. That's \$2 billion.

Later, down the road, of course, those people were shut out. They were shut out from the job even though they were trained; unable to access the program, unable to get into the workforce because it would not recognize them. Now we have formed employment equity to make sure. It has been delayed, Mr Speaker. I didn't inform you. I'm not quite sure if you're paying attention. That has been delayed and has not even been introduced. I gather it will come in next March and April, when they will bring employment equity in, this government that was so committed to making sure that each person participates in the workforce. That, Mr Minister, is something I'd like you to fight at the cabinet table, to tell them we have a couple of days to introduce employment equity so we can get on with it.

It was introduced, I should say—let me correct it—but second reading has not yet been proceeded with.

I am not at all convinced that the ministry and the minister have done an adequate job in bringing forth an OTAB, Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, which will be effective. It will not. Two billion dollars is a lot to spend, and we must get our money's worth for it.

Ontario pays a lot for education, and I don't think the end product is worth the kind of money that we're seeing here. We have a high illiteracy rate; we have a workforce that, although we bragged about it, is not as trained as it should be. Those who are trained are not as recognized as they should be, so therefore all aspects of training have to be looked at very seriously.

Many of the members over there say we must take politics out of that, but politics seem to play a very important role as far as this government is concerned. If politics were out of it, the emphasis of having a high representation of trade union members would not have been here. I am a strong believer that the unions must play a very active role in training. I think they have a lot to contribute. But I also think that those who are not represented by unions should be represented here, and raise my voice loud enough to talk about the educational institutions that have been into training and education for hundreds of years which seem, somehow, to be shut out of this process, or have a token representation of only two there.

I would urge the minister to look at it very closely. I would urge the minister also to make sure that the counselling aspect, those who are career counsellors are represented on this, because they are trained in that field. They can recognize some of the aspirations and dreams and struggles of people who want to be trained and they could direct them accordingly. But I see that if you leave it to those out there, hoping that things go well is not good enough.

Maybe the short experience I had with Skills Development, trying to develop what I had called then a training culture, is catching on. We need a training culture in this province. We need that to understand that we cannot have only one job and feel that will take us through the time until we retire, whether at 65, 75 or whatever age we decide to come out of the workforce. We need to encourage that in our society. But I feel that not until the government has a hands-on attitude about training will this happen.

In the five minutes that I have, I warn you that the students today are frustrated because they're not quite sure where they will end up, what professions they will go into, what kind of training they should go to. The difficulty of funding for them is there. I can empathize with the government, coming in at the time of the recession, that it can't find the kind of money to pay for every program.

But as politicians have always said, the most important resource that we have in our province or in our country is our people. The problem we have is that we say these things but we don't put our money there. I think if we have to invest, we should invest in the people—invest in their education, invest in their literacy abilities—because it pays off later on. It brings about investment. Encourage investment here by having good resources of good, trained people.

There is a true story about when the Japanese automaker was looking for a place to locate in Ontario. They had a couple of sites where the Japanese automaker was trying

to locate. One of the areas that we thought was low on the list, that they would not have selected, was where the Japanese businessman decided he'd like to have this manufacturing of cars. We were kind of taken aback and asked, "Why did you select this site over the other sites?"

His comment was: "When I looked at the area, I looked at the schools and the education system. At the school that is located near here"—which was at grade 8 or grade 9 level—"the standard of education and the marks were higher than all the other marks. The literacy rate and the ability to learn was higher in that area. Hence, I will locate my firm here because I can then find out that continuous training can take place."

They weren't looking five years or two years, they were looking maybe 100 years down the road. It's important when we invest in our people that we invest properly and carefully.

Mr Minister, I'm the first one not to criticize you if you did not bring this program in for another year, as long as it was done properly. Of course, some of my colleagues may say that it's been two years that you've been working on this and just now you bring it forward. Of course, we may say that you should work a bit faster.

But if the minister had taken some more time, I'm extremely confident that that minister, with his ability, his manner, would have brought about a much better plan than what we see here in this training and adjustment board.

There is hope and there is time, because the process tells us that as soon as this is introduced you get a chance to change it. As you've listened carefully to all of us, there is some very insightful information that you've gotten here. I know you'll go back to read those Hansards and say: "By golly, I paid all those bureaucrats to bring about these programs and we have the resources sitting right here. We have listened like good, true New Democrats. We have listened to you and we shall change that. We shall make sure that even people who are non-union are here. We shall make sure that all the people of this great province see a hope that they can get training for jobs."

In the meantime, of course, another minister is working ardently in order to bring business here, more than some of the things that we are seeing now that are driving business away. We blame them for everything, but some of that is gone, as we know, for other reasons.

But I'm confident, Mr Minister, that with your ability there is hope for us here, because we speak from this side of the House for a better Ontario, an Ontario that is trained, an Ontario that is properly represented, an Ontario where women and minorities and unions and non-union representatives are able to participate in this workforce.

2300

I am confident that this will happen. I think you have the resources—our studies that have been done already, the access to training and the employment equity program that are here to say, "We all must participate."

Those are the few comments I have to make. I know we will have a better training strategy. My last fling at this, Mr Minister, is to tell you that if you're going to depend on those Tories up in Ottawa to give you any money, they

swindled me out of some when I was a minister. I'm telling you, good luck on your program, and listen to us.

The Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Scarborough North and invite questions and/or comments. The member for Dufferin-Peel.

Mr Tilson: I'd like to respond to the member for Scarborough North. I think some of his comments are well-founded and some of them aren't. Specifically, I think the comments he made that all three parties agree with are that we do need jobs in this province, we do have unemployment that is on the increase and is perhaps the worst in the country, we do need retraining and we do need to figure out how to compete in the worldwide market. We need to figure out how to compete on this North American continent, and we do need to retrain people of all ages. We do need to get people working again. I guess that's the question: Is this the way to do it?

We certainly need to improve excellence. We need to emphasize the importance of retraining, not just retraining people for new jobs that are continually changing but retraining people who are already in existing jobs. This is an issue all three parties have a grave concern on.

The difficulty I see with this bill is that it's creating a brand-new educational system with all the wonderful bureaucracy that's going to go with it. We say, "Oh well, there are only 22 directors." I can promise you that before this is all out, you'll have a brand-new building, you'll have floors of bureaucrats, and that's just for the one big, central location. I don't know what's going to happen to local boards.

Many of the services are already being provided, and I'm referring specifically—

Hon Mr Allen: Haphazard, duplicating—

Mr Tilson: Well, I'll refer to the colleges. That's exactly why I'm opposed to what this minister is doing. He's creating a duplication of a system we already have. The construction industry, which has made a very fine presentation to you, is saying that you're duplicating the very work it performs.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate the member on his comments.

Mr Perruzza: To respond very briefly in the two minutes I have, I keep hearing over and over—and the argument has been made by every opposition member who has spoken on this issue—about bureaucracy and about creating another wasteful level of bureaucracy.

Perhaps the honourable members in the opposition, both the Liberals and Conservatives, have never been unemployed, they have never sought retraining, they have never tried to manoeuvre through the quagmire of bureaucracy that exists. Have you ever gone to Manpower and sought retraining? Have you ever called the Ministry of Skills Development on the phone and said, "I'd like to get into a program; where I can get a job"? Have you done that? I don't think they can stand up in their places and say that, because if they had they would have found out that they can't get through because it's so convoluted, it's so messy, it's so fragmented. It's in so many different places that nobody knows where it really is. You look but you can't find, but you know it's supposed to be there somewhere.

What all this is saying is that there's a transfer, that if you're unemployed and you need training to find a job there's going to be a local place where you can go.

Mr Curling: Where?

Mr Perruzza: Locally, centrally. It does both. It'll do it in your community. It'll do it in the big city. That's what this does. It doesn't duplicate; it eliminates.

Mr Daigeler: I think a lot of members in the House are smiling at the rhetoric from the member for Downsview, but I must admit that if the Minister for Skills Development has convinced someone of the rightness of his own project, I guess it's the member for Downsview. If the member for Downsview wants to support his minister on that, certainly he will do so. I won't stand in his way.

But frankly, neither the member for Downsview nor the minister has convinced me. The member for Scarborough North has put on the record again a few new concerns and considerations in the context of OTAB, and I certainly recommend that the minister review Hansard to very carefully look at the concerns that he has expressed. Especially as a former Minister of Skills Development, I think the member from Scarborough North has some very important contributions to make.

That brings up one point that, at some time in the debate or later on, I would like to hear from the minister about one issue that hasn't really been raised at all: What will happen to the Ministry of Skills Development? I'm not saying that it necessarily has to be the same as it is now, but I would like to hear from him what it means for all the people who are there. Will they be transferred? What are the implications of these major decisions for the people who are currently working on these programs, and in the Ministry of Skills Development in general?

The member from Downsview said, "It's not working at all." In my area, in the Ottawa-Carleton area, I don't have that concern. People have not phoned my office to complain that they can't get through, that they can't get the proper service. As with any government program, frankly, there are always things to improve and to change and to adjust and I'm all in favour of that, but that doesn't mean you have to dismantle the whole thing.

Mr Bisson: I'd just like to point out a couple of points with regard to the member opposite's speech on OTAB. One of the points he made was what OTAB would do is create this huge bureaucracy, as he puts it—and I think the member opposite in the Conservative party made the same point—and that it would be a duplication of services and it would be a whole bunch more civil servants working for the province of Ontario and duplicating all kinds of things. Utter hogwash.

What this thing is all about is that we have presently in this province about 10 ministries that deal with the question of training when it comes to the workplace, by various means. What OTAB is going to do is take people from those other ministries out there and put them underneath basically one roof, under OTAB, in order to better centralize and better utilize their services through the direction of the people on the OTAB board, who, I say again, are representatives of

people who are within the industry themselves, who know best what they need for training.

As far as the government's responsibility for training, obviously that remains in place. The government needs to be able to develop policies in regard to training that OTAB would have to follow, like any other educational institution or board out there or whatever it might be.

The other thing I think the member has to take into account is the question of what we have right now as well with an overlap between federal and provincial jurisdictions in regard to training. One of the things we're attempting to address with OTAB that goes a long way is to really eliminate a lot of that overlap. I think if we hear one thing really clearly from the people in Ontario, probably as other governments around North America—or at least in Canada; let's keep in our own boundaries for this debate—is that people want to see a lowering of the cost of operation of the government, and clearly the way you do that is you have to redevelop the way you deliver services to the people you represent.

OTAB not only does that; it does it in spades in regard to eliminating a lot of the duplication of services and making it much more efficient as far as cost goes. But also it comes back to the question of empowering the employer and the employees within the workplaces of Ontario to have a larger say when it comes to the development of training because, after all, it is they who know best because they are the recipients of the training. As soon as the opposition figures that out, the better off we'll be.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Scarborough North has up to two minutes for a response.

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Mr Curling: I just have to warn the minister that somehow some of his colleagues don't hear properly, because I can't remember making some of those comments they are responding to.

But, following the logic I'm hearing, that the Ministry of Skills Development will then gradually disappear, we could follow the same logic that I'm sure the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will disappear, and also, following the same logic, that the Ministry of Education will disappear.

The reason I say that is because training is an extremely important aspect of it and I feel that a ministry should exist, that a Ministry of Skills Development should be there to make sure that regulations and policies are followed, that we do continue to have a Ministry of Skills Development. I gathered that they said, "No, let's pass it on to a board or pass it on to OTAB." I think it's dangerous. I think that the Ministry of Skills Development should be there.

I know that nobody will defend that around the cabinet table because when I was reading this, it said that the OTAB will report to a cabinet minister. So gradually I got the hint there that Skills Development will no longer be there. I would say that would be a sad day if, while we have the rhetoric that our most important resource in this province is our people and we must train them and we must give them that empowerment—the words that the

New Democrats always use, "to empower the people"—then we take away that ministry that would empower them, Skills Development, the ministry of training, and then to say that, "Oh, come on, we have a couple of people on an OTAB board who look after that empowerment," and every now and again they will meet at some sort of session, some retreat, to spend some money to do that. We hope that ministry does not disappear. I depend on you, Mr Minister, to go back and fight for that ministry.

The Speaker: Any further debate? The member for Dufferin-Peel.

Mr Tilson: I'm pleased to participate in this debate of Bill 96, which is a bill entitled the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board Act, 1992. As I was sitting waiting for the member for Scarborough North to finish his remarks, specifically on what's going to happen to the ministry, it is interesting the way the bill has been described: "The Hon R. Allen, minister responsible for OTAB project." Maybe that's a sign of things to come; maybe it isn't. I'm sure he'll explain that in due course, that either it was a typing error or maybe the whole philosophy of skills and development is going to change.

However, I would like to comment somewhat on this bill and add hopefully some remarks that have been made by previous members and perhaps add some other remarks. I know the minister has had delegations and presentations made to him from all groups and some of them I'd like to refer to this evening, specifically the representatives of the construction industry, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. There are many others, but those are three where I'd like to refer to some of their concerns. Many of them have been referred to specifically tonight.

This board, of course, does establish a new crown agency, which alarms me, quite frankly. It's the unknown as to what we are creating, how many people are going to be involved, what's it going to cost. None of that has really been made very clear by the minister, and maybe he will, to be fair, make that clear in his response or perhaps as the public hearings go on. But there are grave concerns that certainly I have personally and have expressed on this side and that have been expressed to me from some of the lobby groups that are interested in the process which this government is about to go through.

The processes are set forth in the bill, which is quite a wide discretion that this board is going to have. It does have a rather broad mandate, albeit under the direction of the minister, but it is a wide mandate. I get concerned with wide mandates, as to what they are going to do. There is no question that this province has a very serious problem, particularly in times of recession. The whole issue of unemployment: The government is concerned with that; the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, we're all concerned with that.

We're also concerned with how fast things are proceeding, how it is necessary for us to compete on the international and world markets and how we can train our people to compete. Otherwise we're going to become a third-rate power.

So I suppose that on the one hand I congratulate the minister for at least addressing the issue, but I must say I will not be supporting the bill, and I will say that at the outset. I'm sure it's no surprise to him that I will not be supporting the bill, simply because of the fear of the unknown, the bureaucracy that's going to be created and the unknown cost.

The member for Scarborough-Agincourt quoted a figure, which was given by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, that this will cost approximately \$2 billion of public funds. Now, I know the minister has challenged that. Again, I'll be looking forward to his response, not only in this House but in the public hearings, to question that. I can assure him that all members in the opposition will be questioning in very great detail exactly what this whole process is going to cost, and more importantly, where he's going to get the money. Are the funds going to come from another employment tax, another employer tax?

That's a fear, because we all have to get back the jobs. How are we going to encourage jobs to come to this province, whether from outside the country, outside the province, from the United States, from other provinces? They look at our whole system. They look at our labour laws, they look at our taxes and if they see yet another tax being piled on they're going to be gravely concerned.

The minister shakes his head in the negative. I hope he means that there won't be one, because that is a fear. It's a fear by the chamber of commerce and other groups that I know have spoken to him and have made presentations to him. That's a fear, and it still exists, because we have taxes already, payroll taxes, health taxes, that are being paid for by the employer. It's just one more concern that we have in encouraging people to invest in this province.

I'd like to again repeat the structure of this board. I know members in the House have heard this, because almost every other speaker refers to the structure, but I think it's very important that we describe the structure. This agency will be led by a board of directors which will be the governing body and which will consist of 22 representatives. That is indeed set forth in the bill; I believe it's section 9. It will consist of two chairs, one representing business and one representing labour, seven directors representing business and seven directors representing labour, which is interesting considering what labour represents. If you take the whole workforce, who's going to speak for it? We know whom labour's going to speak for.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): Not you.

Mr Tilson: Well, you can say that it's not me, but certainly not labour, because labour represents a very small percentage of the workforce. I know you're very hopeful that with Bill 40, labour will represent a larger proportion of the workforce. The fact of the matter is that currently labour represents only a small portion of the workforce. Who is going to speak for all these people?

Mr O'Connor: Certainly not you.

Mr Tilson: Yes, it isn't me, but it's certainly not you, and that's my point, that this bill is not going to assist those people.

We're going to have two directors representing educators and trainers and one director representing francophones. It'll be interesting hearing the minister describe, as this debate and this whole process unfolds, how specifically these people are going to be appointed. How are we going to appoint one director representing francophones? Is this going to be simply a political appointment?

Hon Mr Allen: Francophone reference committee.

Mr Tilson: I know exactly who francophones are, but the question is, who's going to appoint that one person? There will be one director representing persons with disabilities, one director representing racial minorities and one director representing women. The makeup of the governing body was modified slightly as a result of the government's consultation process so that the francophone representative and, as I understand it, a non-voting municipal representative have been added to the board. As well, as I understand it, an individual representing our aboriginal people may be appointed to OTAB's governing body, which would be at the request of and in consultation with the recognized representatives of the aboriginal people. That is what I understand is being suggested.

Number one, I don't like the small group and the representative aspect of it and how it's going to be appointed and how it's going to come into being. The difficulty is that it's an appointed quota system, which I am not in favour of. I'm not in favour of the quota system in this province.

Let's say that I agree with the board you're suggesting. I would hope that for the qualifications for getting on that board—and I don't agree with that, but let's say I do—you'll be trying to find the best people possible to sit on that board. But the qualifications that you're choosing are: Seven must be from business, seven must be from labour, two must represent educators and trainers, one must represent francophones, one represents persons with disabilities, one represents racial minorities, and one represents women.

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I understand what you're trying to do. You're putting forward the whole quota system in every aspect of this province. Even when we had our so-called race riot report in this province, it was suggested by Mr Lewis that the qualifications to get into education would be based on the quota system. That was being suggested in his report. Can you believe it?

It gets back to the whole root of what we should be trying to do in this province. We should be trying to develop excellence because we must try to develop excellence. If we don't put the best people forward in our jobs, in our corporations, the people who want to work, the people who are going to be able to compete on the international market, we're going to be lost. We're going to become a third-rate power.

This whole concept of the quota system is creeping in more and more in our debates and more and more in our legislation. This is one piece of legislation. The quota system, that dreaded quota system hasn't worked elsewhere. It hasn't worked in the United States. If you don't know about that—I respect the minister. I'm sure he's studied

that. The difficulty is, his party philosophy says, "We must have a quota system in the province of Ontario."

I would hope that he would be addressing that because the labour market partners, as I understand it, will nominate candidates for this board and they will be appointed by the government of the day. In other words, they will be political appointments. Will the political appointments—you shake your head. That's exactly how they're going to get on. They're going to be political appointments.

Interjection: Read it.

Mr Tilson: I am reading it. I am reading the bill and that's exactly who's going to appoint it. The government will require that the list of candidates reflect gender balance, the diversity of Ontario's population including geographic diversity, and Ontario's linguistic duality. That's in subsection 9(4). Members will be appointed for terms up to three years and may be reappointed. That's the quota system. In other words you're saying, "These are the qualifications." I would hope, Mr Minister, that you would be saying, "We must have the best people possible." But you're not doing that.

There will also be an ex officio representation on the board from the federal, provincial and municipal governments. This whole agency, and this is when we get to the best part, will be managed by a chief executive officer and staffed by civil servants. In other words, this is the birth of a new educational system, a brand new educational system with all the bureaucracy and all the costs that go with it, the \$2 billion that's been estimated. I hope you challenge that. I hope you say that's wrong because so far those are the estimates that are out. I fear how the taxpayer in this province is going to be able to afford a system that this province really doesn't need at this particular time.

The subject of accountability, I know, has been referred to the minister by different groups, whether it be the teachers or whether it be the construction people. They're all concerned with the whole subject of accountability. The act sets out various accountability mechanisms, such as the minister will have power to issue directives to the board and request a report at any time on any aspect of OTAB's mandate, powers or duties.

You read this good stuff, as you say, but you read this thing and it's very broad. Where are we going? I mean you read it and it just smacks of bureaucracy. It's going to expand and expand and expand to a bureaucracy that this province has never seen before. We think the Workers' Compensation Board is evil, and it is evil. Wait till you see this thing. Mr Minister, I don't think you have realized what you have created. The OTAB will be required to develop multi-year corporate plans and detailed annual submissions and operational plans, spending estimates for cabinet approval—again, the bureaucracy just carries on.

OTAB will be subject to regular and special audits, the Provincial Auditor—thank goodness for that—and review by the public accounts committee. I sit on the public accounts committee and I can assure you, if I'm still on it when this thing gets rolling, I will be asking many questions as to how you intend to proceed, and at the legislative committee on government agencies.

OTAB must comply with relevant Management Board, treasury board and human resources directives and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the French Language Services Act, the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act and the Public Service Act and on it goes. So it just continues on with the bureaucracy.

As usual with many bills that are being put forward by this government, we don't know what the regulations are. We have no idea. The minister will give us little hints as we proceed in the hearings, I'm sure, as to what those regulations are, but many of these haven't been worked out.

As I understand it, when you read the section dealing with regulations, which is section 30, there will be the establishment of an associated network of local boards which will guide the planning and delivery of provincial and federal labour force development programs at the community level. Local boards will be the joint initiative of OTAB, the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, Employment and Immigration Canada and the government of Ontario. The government anticipates that a number of the 22 boards will be established by the spring of 1993. So, Mr Minister, you're moving on and I suspect that this bureaucracy we fear will be right at it next year.

You will also establish councils, which will be remunerated—we don't know what they will be paid—as sub-committees to advise the government body. So you can see already the reference to the expansion of bureaucracy. You say there's no expansion but when you start studying this bill, you realize that the bureaucracy will be considerable.

There will be the establishment of reference groups. To be fair to the minister, I understand that they will not be remunerated, but these will be for each of the labour market partners to ensure a broader representation and accountability to each partner's constituent base.

There will be regulations dealing with the decision-making process, the voting procedures for the main governing body, and of course dealing with such things as quorum and those sorts of things.

Our first speaker, the critic of our party, who is the member for London North, Mrs Cunningham, has asked a number of questions about your initiative, and she has said that today, she's said that prior to this day in this House, such questions as, will OTAB become focused on social policy rather than on skills training and workplace issues because of its broad mandate? I suspect it will. I suspect that we're not just going to get into retraining and education, that we're going to be getting into all sorts of things that haven't even been announced. So Mrs Cunningham's fears are quite legitimate.

The other question that she's asked and which you really have an obligation to respond to for the education community, specifically when you have public school boards and other school boards already operating adult education courses—I don't know what's going to become of them. They've given you a very detailed report on the adequacy of that system and they say it's just going to wither away.

The colleges, the very industry itself that we're trying to assist, the improvement of the industry itself, many of these industries—and the construction industry is one, as I've indicated—already offer their own programs and they

fear that these are going to wither away. But the question that Mrs Cunningham has asked the minister, and I hope he will respond to that as well, is, why has the education community been allocated only two seats on the board? This is a new educational system and yet the very educational people who you're trying to replace—you're only going to give two to the educational system. You're going to give eight to labour, you're going to give eight to—I think I've got the right number; sorry, you're going to give seven to business and seven to labour, and yet you're only going to give two to education, the very people who hopefully would have much to contribute to the whole process.

The other question that Mrs Cunningham has asked is, why are the CITCs and private trainers being excluded from the process? I hope the minister will respond to that. What accountability measure will the government be putting in place? That is the real fear. Who is this accountable to? The act says the minister, but surely there are other people who this process will be accountable to.

2330

The other question which has been asked, and I have asked it and I will continue to ask it, is, how is this thing going to be paid for? We're concerned that your government, Mr Minister, will introduce a payroll tax to fund OTAB and its training programs. I suspect they're going to say: "Well, business has an obligation. They're the very people we're trying to help, so therefore make them pay." What kind of response is that when businesses are leaving the country, they're going out of business? There's a recession on, there are bankruptcies like we've never seen in this province before, and you're going to introduce a payroll tax to fund OTAB and its training programs.

Payroll taxes, I would submit to the minister—and I can't believe the minister wouldn't agree with me—reduce competitiveness, impair job creation, hurt economic growth and certainly put a squeeze on small business.

All of those factors were concerned—and I come back to my opening remarks: How are we going to attract business to this province? How are we going to attract investment to this province? Anyone putting substantial moneys into this province to build up industry is going to look at all of these things, and if they see payroll taxes and other strange things they've never seen in their country, they're going to go elsewhere. It's just as simple as that.

The minister has already denied that it's going to cost \$2 billion, but the chamber of commerce and others think it will. People who are perhaps more informed on the subject than I have made estimates, and that's their estimate as to what it's going to cost. So we'll have to get into that, because the government states that the cost to operate programs under OTAB will be similar to the existing system. That's a statement they have made.

"Some savings should be possible by bringing the 48 programs from the 10 ministries"—and this has been referred to before—"together in a unified and more efficient organization. But these, I would submit, will be offset by an addition of new initiatives and activities." In other words, this government hasn't a clue as to what it's going to cost; all this vagueness as to what it's going to cost. Surely the minister has projections or studies or some

sort of report he can table with this House, and if not in this House, at the committee, because this is a question we must know.

We have the Treasurer making unbelievable cutbacks in social services and education. You yourself are making unbelievable cutbacks with respect to the educational system in this province. Already the students in this province are going to have to pay higher tuition fees. So the whole process is a contradiction. This thing is going to cost big dollars, yet you can't afford it, and I don't think the business community can afford it.

The government's rough estimate of OTAB's budget, based on the current budgets for provincial programs being considered for transfer to OTAB, is \$400 million to \$500 million. And he shakes his head in the affirmative.

We submit, of course, that this estimate is low because in October of last year, Mr Minister, you signed a \$1.6-billion Canada-Ontario labour force development agreement. In the very first year of that agreement, the federal government will continue \$846 million and the provincial government will continue \$751 million towards training programs in Ontario. This represents—and I know these figures have been thrown at you before, but I'm going to do it again—an 83% increase over the amount allocated in the previous year.

The whole issue of cost is probably the number one issue we must be looking at in the debate ahead and in the hearings ahead, presumably in January or February.

The other issue which has been challenged by all members of the government who have spoken in response to the comments made by members of the opposition is whether the government is creating a giant bureaucracy. Just look at the simple facts being presented. They say, "Oh well, it's only 22 people," but no cost-benefit analysis, Mr Minister, has been conducted by you. At least if there has been, you haven't released it. Maybe you've got it in your back pocket and you simply won't tell us. But in the information you've presented to the House and the people of Ontario, you've made no cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the training board will simply set up another layer of bureaucracy and end up costing more than the initiatives already in place. You haven't done that, and I think it's incumbent upon you to do that before you proceed with this bill.

There are approximately 800 civil servants currently administering training programs in Ontario, and they, presumably, will be transferred to the new crown agency with all their seniority and benefits protected. I suspect they will, because that's normally the deal this government would work out.

If the government imposed a payroll tax for training in the future, it would become another Workers' Compensation Board, there's no doubt in anybody's mind, at least on this side of the House. I know you on the government side of the House say: "Oh, that's not true. We're not going to create this terrible Workers' Compensation Board, not us. We're not going to do that."

The Workers' Compensation Board, just to remind the minister, has a \$10.3-billion unfunded liability, and it satisfies absolutely no one. That's what you're trying to do.

Who are you trying to satisfy in this thing, and will you actually accomplish it?

I challenge the minister that he must have a benefit analysis to table in this House and, if he hasn't done one, he should do it before this process is completed.

I would like to refer in the five minutes remaining to the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, which made an excellent report. It's quite a detailed report. I know the minister's read it. This was submitted to him back in April, and I know he and his staff have looked at it.

Some of the questions put forward by the OSSTF I would hope he would make available to this House, and presumably they will be presented by other members, because in five minutes I certainly can't—I'll just make some comments with respect to the report.

I can almost pick a section at random, because the federation has described very worthwhile programs that are being put forward by the public school boards with respect to adult education, and it fears that this whole process is going to be undermined by what the minister is trying to do in this province.

They say: "Approximately one third of secondary school students enter formal post-secondary education programs, and as a result, school boards must pay as much attention to preparing students for employment immediately after graduation as they do to those who enter post-secondary educational institutions. This is being done in a number of ways through a variety of programs."

Then they go through and talk about the cooperative education program, the apprenticeship program, the linkage programs and other programs. The minister could probably speak to that better than I, because I'm not the critic, but I do have some knowledge of it.

They're concerned. They're concerned that this is already being offered in the present system and that this bill is going to undermine that whole process. The OSSTF has essentially expressed its concerns, some of which I have put forward in my presentation this evening. The following questions, they say, have not been answered:

"What role will public school boards play in providing adult and continuing education programs (adult basic literacy, adult basic numeracy, English as a second language, co-op education, school/workplace apprenticeship programs, linkage etc)?"

"Why does the educator/trainer sector have so few seats on OTAB?"

"Will the authority of school boards to grant credits and diplomas be protected?"

"Should public moneys be provided to private trainers?"

"Will lifelong learning be compromised by the establishment of 'an arm's-length agency' from the provincial government and ministries?"

"What impact will OTAB have on existing education programs and the job security of teachers/instructors?"

I've asked a lot of questions. Many of them haven't come from me. They've come from the various groups that have made presentations to the minister. The difficulty we have, of course, is that I only have 30 minutes. In fact, I only have two minutes to finish my remarks. I'd like to offer some of my suggestions.

It's difficult in the two minutes I have to do that, and I think that somewhere it's incumbent upon the minister to stand in his place and respond to all of these concerns that have been put forward. If he hasn't got time in the House, I hope he or his parliamentary assistant will come to the public hearings, because I can assure you that these groups are going to come and hammer you.

They don't understand what you're doing. They're afraid that you're duplicating the existing system, that you're wreaking havoc in the existing system, that you're creating a bureaucracy we don't want and that you're creating a bureaucracy we can't afford.

2340

The Speaker: I thank the honourable member for Dufferin-Peel for his contribution to the debate and invite any questions and/or comments. The member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr Hope: I've heard through the presentation that total chaos is going to be created with this legislation and nobody wants to participate. Let me tell you, my own community, which the minister is well familiar with, is trying to establish that community base, where the educators—he talks about the educators not wanting to participate because there are so many questions—are on stream.

The labour movement he says is under a quota system and that we've got to deal by qualifications. There are a lot of workers in workplaces who have significant experience, because on a number of issues in the automotive sectors, I remember that we were the ones who told the companies, "You'd better get on stream with this," and they said, "No, no, good economic times are here; we don't need to." A lot of the initiatives around training were brought forward by the labour movement.

You brought up the example of adult education and dealing with illiteracy. We tried bringing the programs into the workplace and the first reaction of some of the business community was, "We don't want them to be able to read a contract, the collective agreement." We tried to explain: "No, it's for the benefit of the employer. We're trying to implement a literacy program so they know how to read blueprints, know how to read the bills and orders, so that they get a better understanding and quality production is produced."

I've sat here listening to both the Liberals and the Tories explaining the problems out there and the job losses, and he talks about how we don't know what's in this legislation, I reflect on Bill C-21, in which the federal government made significant changes around UIC. When they did that, they said, "We've got a good training program." It was a hidden agenda, and it's still hidden and it's two years later.

So before we start taking advice from a Liberal, who had five years to do initiatives, and from the Tory government, which had 42 years here in the province of Ontario, plus what we see the federal government doing—you have no place to make comment.

I think what we see is that our communities place community value in this program. I think what we will see

is progressive movement on their behalf in making our communities more effective and efficient.

The Speaker: The member for Durham-York.

Mr O'Connor: Sitting here listening to the comments made me think back. This is such an important issue that I held a meeting in my riding earlier this year. I had teachers come to it, I had councillors come to it, I had farmers come to it, I had trustees come to it, I had a lot of working people come to it, native people came out. I had people from five of the municipalities I represent, and they all came out because they were so excited about this.

They couldn't believe that we could possibly have all these different ministries involved with education and training, yet nowhere were they all pulled together. When they saw that the Ontario government was going to move forward on something to bring all the training programs together, they thought this was just incredible.

As I was sitting here—the evening is getting late—going through some of my mail, I got the annual report here from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. I just want to read a couple of the priorities:

"The changing times focus priorities:

"(1) Working with business, labour and other groups to implement an industrial policy for building a stronger economy."

This is what we're talking about here when we're talking about training as part of an industrial policy. We're going to pull it all together; incredible. The whole government is really coming in line with this and the province is coming in line with this.

There are 11 different priorities, and I'm not going to read every one of them because I've only got two minutes; the member had half an hour. The final one:

"(11) Ensuring that the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology's programs and services use public money in the most efficient and effective manner."

By golly, that's exactly what we're doing with OTAB. We're bringing it all together and using it in the most efficient and effective manner.

I think we've got this thing bang right on. I know that the people in Durham-York are going to be quite impressed by it, so I have to applaud the minister for bringing it forward. It's a positive initiative.

Mr Bisson: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: Could you give him another two minutes, please, from the previous member? Unanimous consent?

The Speaker: Do you really want to do that?

Interjection: No.

The Speaker: The member for Downsview.

Mr Perruzza: I will just respond very briefly for two minutes to some of the comments the member made.

OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board: What does it mean? Essentially, what this is going to do is lay down the industrial training culture in this province for the 1990s and beyond.

I look at what the Liberals did and the Liberal record from 1985 to 1990. It's shameful. There were unprecedented taxes. They had more money coming into this place than they knew what to do with, but what did they do

about the future? Did they develop a rainy day fund? No. That's what this is. It's 20 years too late, but we weren't elected before September 6, 1990. We're elected now. This is the rainy day fund for the people of the province of Ontario.

When I listen to my Conservative friends, they profess to speak for business. Business is on side on this. What business says is: "Let us do it. Government doesn't know how to do it. Government is too slow. It doesn't react to our needs. I'm a business. I want to locate in Ontario. I want to be productive and competitive. But you don't have the trained workforce. Whom do I speak to about getting some employees who can do the job?"

Quite frankly, there's nobody, because government, we all know, can't react fast enough. Business is represented on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. I listen to my Conservative colleague and I ask myself the question, "Does he speak for business?" No, he speaks against government; he's in opposition.

The Speaker: The member's time has expired. We have time for one more contributor.

Mr Hayes: I'd be pleased to comment on the member for Dufferin-Peel's remarks. Also, it kind of surprises me that they get up here and really criticize the OTAB, because I can remember that back in 1974 I went to a meeting in Kitchener, Ontario, with all the reeves and municipal representatives, along with labour and management people. As a matter of fact, Mr Davis was at that particular meeting. Think about it. It was in 1974 that they were talking about training the workforce to meet the needs of the changing and new technology. We needed apprenticeship programs and all these things. It was just the greatest thing. I felt so good when I left that meeting. I thought, "Boy, something is going to be done." That was 18 years ago.

Now we have the Liberal over there, the Liberal from Timiskaming I think it is, who talked about: "It's too late. It's going to take 18 months to put this committee together and it's going to be three years before we start implementing it." All we hear is this criticism. The previous government, 1974 to 1985, made all these great announcements about how it was going to train the proper workforce. Then the next government had five years to deal with it. It's very sad that they weren't able to take a hold of this thing, weren't able to use the political clout that they could have. They didn't have any political will to educate the young people in this province. I think that the minister we have, Mr Allen, has to be complimented for picking up and taking up where other governments never had the political will to do it.

The Speaker: The member's time has expired. The member for Dufferin-Peel has up to two minutes for his response.

Mr Tilson: I'd love to compliment him, but I can't. I just can't compliment him for a process that I know is not going to work and is going to create more bankruptcy. I'm not going to respond to most of the responses from the government. I will respond to Mr Lawrence O'Connor, the member for Durham-York. I do sit with him on the

occasional committee, and I always enjoy sitting with him. I never agree with anything he says—specifically, I don't agree with anything he says tonight—but I always enjoy his remarks.

He of course has made the remark that this government is coming alive. Well, I can say to you that the groups I am speaking to in this province, and that includes everyone from chambers of commerce to Ontario secondary school federations to the construction industry, are trying to stay alive. That's what they're trying to do, that's all they're trying to do, while you're not trying to make it possible.

2350

I just pick one up which I didn't have time to submit in my comments, and that is from the construction industry. They've expressed to the minister, as I said, back in the spring of this year, with respect to what his proposals would be—this letter to him simply says, "The current high standards of training now characteristic to Ontario's construction industry could be seriously threatened under such restructuring." They're concerned with the whole issue of excellence.

I think the problem with this government is that "We're all the same." That's what they're trying to say, that we're all the same. But the fact of the matter is, many industries, and the construction industry is only one of many examples, are different. Many industries are different, whether it's the school boards—the whole process is different. You can't just make one bureaucracy and say, "We're all the same."

They say, "In comparison to other industries, the construction workforce is ever-changing in size and duration, it is multi-employer versus single employer in nature and is subject to varying and extreme conditions. As such, the construction industry requires unique approaches to training," and they're the ones that provide that, not what this government is going to be putting forth.

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): If I may continue, what I'd like to begin by saying at this hour, as parliamentary assistant to Richard Allen, the Minister of Skills Development, is that what I'd like to do here is provide a bit of focus on the points that my colleagues have so ably raised in response to the points that the members of the opposition have tried to raise.

I want to begin by saying I found it strange—and I've listened to the debate here tonight with some interest—that several of their speakers mentioned how they would have liked to have more than 30 minutes to make their points, yet so often tonight we heard elements about the environment raised, I guess Bill 40 was thrown in there, Bill 143, all these other things that were brought into the argument that took away from their time. So when it came down to five minutes left, suddenly they realized they hadn't spoken about OTAB to any extent and they had to then complain about the new rules.

Mr Bisson: Except for the member for London North?

Mr Gary Wilson: Well, there were some honourable exceptions, and the member for London North is here to make that point. But I do want to speak about the member

for Dufferin-Peel, who talked, as several others did, about the Workers' Compensation Board, except that the member for Dufferin-Peel referred to it as the Workmen's Compensation Board.

I mention this not to be petty—because I understand, certainly with the advice here from my colleague the member for Simcoe Centre, that this is one of the hazards that befall lawyers, that they go through law school at a certain time when an agency can be called a certain name, and they never adjust to changes in it. I make that point because now the Workers' Compensation Board is a particular agency that has been designed to meet certain needs, and it used to be called "workmen's" compensation and now it's "workers'" because circumstances change.

Well, OTAB shares at least that much with workers' compensation, that it has been designed too to meet changing circumstances in the workforce that I think, certainly by the points that my colleagues have raised, are circumstances that need addressing. Certainly even the opposition have made that point. We all agree the economy needs adjusting. There have to be different things made to meet the different circumstances of the economy.

We are in a recession, after all. The reasons for the recession are similar in Ontario, Canada, the western world, throughout the world, and all countries have to meet this new circumstance with differing kinds of agencies, and I suggest that OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, is one of those changes that are being made.

Certainly the focus that the OTAB will provide comes from what some 10 ministries have done, over 48 programs to deal with training. This is what OTAB will be doing, focusing those efforts, and we believe it will be much more efficient and effective in meeting the needs of working people and, beyond that, the social needs of Ontario.

I want to say that OTAB goes beyond that and fits into the government's industrial strategy program, so we see it as being a very important part of getting the economy back on its feet in a very long-term way.

If Ontario's training needs are to be met in the next decade and beyond, we must develop a shared, cooperative view on labour force development policy and programs by all key players in the province's labour market. We must be able to engage the commitment and creativity of those directly concerned with the labour market, and I think that is one of the major initiatives of the OTAB project.

It was suggested by the member for Dufferin-Peel that there wasn't enough consultation, or he seemed to think this is being pulled out of a hat. If you turn to the fact sheets provided by the minister when he introduced this at the first reading in the House last week, you'll see that there's a sheet called Steps to Date to Implement OTAB. It covers both sides of that sheet with steps along the way to the creation of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board.

Just to see how thorough the consultation has been, all parts of the labour force have been consulted to make sure the design of OTAB will reflect the needs of the community.

OTAB will be led by an empowered governing body comprised of representatives of the people who will rely

on the training and adjustment system. These representatives will include business, labour, francophones, persons with disabilities, racial minorities, women, educators and trainers. It will be the responsibility of these representatives to identify and understand the needs of the people they represent, to review and evaluate what works well, what needs redesigning, where the gaps and overlaps are and what skills are needed today for the jobs of tomorrow.

I think, if you listen to that list of the people who will be represented on the governing board, you will see that it does indeed cover all the people who make up the labour force in Ontario, and indeed the society of Ontario, to make sure that everyone's views are represented and therefore considered. I think that's another very attractive feature of OTAB, not only that focusing that, again, takes what 10 ministries now are doing through 48 programs and brings it under the umbrella of one governing body, but it also involves very directly the people who are responsible for producing the economy that Ontario depends on for its standard of living.

I think that is one of the major features that OTAB is doing to make sure that people have a chance to participate in the designing of the kinds of training they need, that they're not just off-the-shelf imported programs but programs that workers themselves, for instance, have the opportunity to participate in to make sure it serves their needs.

I think that is, as I say, the exciting prospect we have here, that workers will be able to consult, to participate with business as well as with the other groups to make sure the training programs meet their needs in this changing world. After all, we know you can't expect to have one job when you enter the workforce and have that job last for 30, 40 or more years. You're going to have three to five different jobs over that time, and you want to make sure the training that's available will meet your needs so that you will be able to stay in the workforce consistently, or any periods outside the workforce will be spent in training so that you can participate in the workforce again.

I think setting up the governing body this way guarantees that all the interests in society will be heard on this crucial element in today's economy; that is, that we have a training system that meets the changing circumstances.

Even though the recession is in effect now, it's a bit ironic, perhaps, that companies now are going without the workers they need because the training system hasn't been there. For example, within the auto parts industry, the proportion of highly skilled jobs will increase from 35% in 1985 to over 60% in 1995. As one industry specialist points out, "Where we used to need millwrights and hydraulic mechanics on the old production lines, now with robotics we need electronics technicians, people who can read and analyse data on the computer screen and diagnose a problem." It's that kind of change that has occurred. I'll repeat those figures: Highly skilled jobs will increase from 35% in 1985 to over 60% in 1995.

I suggest that unless we have the training systems in place, we won't be able to meet that kind of change, the demand for highly skilled workers who are going to provide the highly valued jobs that we want to build our

standard of living on. In the past we've depended on immigration to fill that need, but all countries in the world now face that same shortage of highly skilled workers. That is the kind of program we're trying to build here in Ontario to make sure we can meet the need to put Ontario workers to work in this changing economy, to guarantee that we'll have that.

The Speaker: I don't like to interrupt the member in full flight, but perhaps this would be an appropriate time to break his remarks. It being 12 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 2402.

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Wednesday 2 December 1992

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Mercredi 2 décembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 2 December 1992

The House met at 1333.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): Last Friday, the final report of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Review Commission, chaired by Graeme Kirby, was finally released to the public by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

This study was initially set up to take a look at one-tier government and other alternatives. However, two years and \$300,000 later, Mr Kirby has come to the same conclusions as previous studies commissioned under the Liberal government: nothing new, nothing very different.

The report recommends more responsibilities be given to the regional government, as recommended by David Bartlett back in 1987. The report recommends the creation of regional wards, as concluded by Catherine Graham in 1990. The report recommends the long-supported call for direct election of regional councillors.

This report is simply a rehash of previous studies, a waste of time and taxpayers' money. The only real new recommendation is the call for a regional police force.

Although Mr Kirby is to be commended for his consultation efforts under sometimes very difficult circumstances, it is unfortunate that he was given such a restrictive mandate by his NDP masters. The time and money could have been more wisely spent on investigating substantive new issues like school board consolidation and the efficiency of hydro, fire and other services.

HUNTING AND FISHING IN ALGONQUIN PARK

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the minister with joint responsibilities for natural resources and native affairs.

On October 19, you announced that the 1992-93 interim hunting agreement had been signed between Ontario and the Algonquins of Golden Lake. Many third parties, such as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, are appalled at the short notice given by you for receipt of comments on the draft agreement. They are wondering why a full public consultation process was not conducted.

The draft agreement set the date for the commencement of moose and deer hunting season outside the park at September 15. That's two weeks before the society received a request for comments. The date for the season to open inside the park was set for October 13, only five days after the deadline for receipt of public comments.

Minister, interested third parties were denied the opportunity to present their views before the first interim agreement was negotiated, and those same interested parties were once again denied the opportunity to provide constructive comments when the agreement was renewed. There was no point in commenting after most of the pro-

visions had already been agreed upon during the closed-door sessions.

Minister, you and your government continue to make a mockery of the entire concept of public participation and consultation. The tree seedling growers, I feel, are in the same boat. Conservation officers and game wardens all seem to have a problem with your unpopular policies. Will you not listen to your partners in conservation?

YOUTH TASK GROUP

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Human Services of Scarborough and especially its committee, the Youth Task Group.

The Youth Task Group plays a vital role in identifying and responding to youth issues through information sharing, education and advocacy. The Youth Task Group has been very involved in program analysis and the development of services for youth in Scarborough.

It has been an instrumental force behind such endeavours as the Second Base Scarborough Youth Shelter, in response to the need for emergency shelter for youth in their own community; Scarborough Housing Help Centre which operates a housing registry, a home sharing program and provides educational resources to youth who have left their families and homes and need assistance in finding accommodation; Youthlink Scarborough which provides a counselling service for youth ages 12 to 18 and their families.

There are many participating agencies in this task group and I'd like to name a couple, including the Aisling Centre for Children and Families, the Catholic Children's Aid Society, Youthlink Scarborough, West Scarborough Community Centre, Tropicana Community Services, Scarborough General Hospital, the Ministry of Correctional Services, the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force and both boards of education, Metro separate and the Scarborough Board of Education.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank a number of individuals: Tina Cutler, Marie Muli, Shane Ayres, Doug Inglis and Sherry Griffiths, along with the current cochairs, Corina Clippingdale-Marshall and Joan Williams. They are continuing the fine tradition of community service begun by their predecessors and the community of Scarborough appreciates their efforts in this area.

DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Residents of communities that have been promised ministry offices by the previous Ontario government and have had those commitments confirmed after a good deal of hesitation by the present provincial government are becoming increasingly concerned that these much anticipated developments will be put on hold, scaled down or cancelled by the Bob Rae administration as our economy heads into the ditch.

When David Peterson announced the move of the Ministry of Transportation to St Catharines, with 1,400 jobs, and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to Niagara Falls, with 400 jobs, residents of the Niagara Peninsula were confident they were seeing a major economic boost to the region and they were convinced that other parts of the province would benefit from the location of government departments in their communities.

Rumours persist that the 1,400 jobs in St Catharines and the 400 jobs in Niagara Falls may not exist when the axe stops swinging in the treasury office or that the moves will be delayed significantly when the Niagara region continues to have the highest rate of unemployment in the province.

I call upon the chair of treasury board to dispel these rumours by confirming the original numbers of jobs and the original timetables. If MTO employees, with their offices being in St Catharines, were to experience the extremely long delays caused by paving during the rush-hour last night, I am certain they would be in a much better position to carry out their responsibilities towards the public.

1340

MUNICIPAL FINANCES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Many municipalities in my riding of Grey, and I'm sure all across the province, are very disturbed with the Minister of the Environment's arbitrary decision to force local councils to submit a fee for administrative costs of operating water and sewage facilities. As well, they will have to pay for the laboratory testing of the municipal water and waste. This policy was announced with absolutely no consultation with the municipalities involved.

The shifting of these costs will, in the majority of cases, mean increases of up to 20%. This is ridiculous. Most municipalities, especially small cities and towns, cannot afford the increase. How can they possibly comply when your government has just announced that it is giving municipalities only 2% this year and nothing the following year? I am astounded that now you have broken the promise, you show no shame in suddenly demanding an additional 5.7% of operating costs. Where do you expect this money to come from?

This government shows absolutely no respect for the people it purports to serve. Why couldn't the minister have discussed this with the municipalities instead of notifying them by letter that they must obey? AMO had its convention in Toronto in August. If there was such a pressing need to download even further on municipalities, and in turn our beleaguered ratepayers, why could she have not raised the issue then?

This government said it would be open and honest and that it would listen to the people. I'm afraid that this is just one more broken promise.

JACK BELL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mr Gary Malkowski (York East): I am making a statement today on behalf of Margery Ward, the MPP for Don Mills.

The Ontario Science Centre, in her riding of Don Mills, has added another illustrious award to its record. Valerie

Stief, executive director of community and educational programs at the centre, has been awarded the Jack Bell Leadership Award by the Science Teachers' Association of Ontario.

The prime consideration in selecting the recipient is the direct and substantial contribution to the large-scale improvement of science education at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary level in Ontario. The STAO noted that Valerie "exemplified the dedicated leader in science education."

The Ontario Science Centre offers educational programs to almost 250,000 students each year and operates a science school for selected outstanding students in their final year of high school. In addition to her work at the science centre, Valerie had certainly met the criteria for this award through her many committees, publications and workshops as well as her work with the STAO board of directors.

I ask all members to join in applauding the recognition of Valerie Stief, executive director of community and educational programs at the Ontario Science Centre.

STABLE FUNDING

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): Yesterday, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture issued a news release condemning the NDP stable funding legislation for farm organizations. The news release read, in part:

"The Ontario Federation of Agriculture will not support the recently tabled farm organizations act as it is presently written because of provisions that include fines of up to \$2,000 for farmers who fail to comply.

"OFA president Roger George stated that, 'It is totally unacceptable to have...legislation that makes criminals of farmers...', that the provision calling for fines was never agreed to by farm leaders in negotiations with the government, and that, 'This bill is badly flawed and unacceptable.'"

The minister has admitted to bungling the introduction of this bill, but he has not indicated how he intends to fix it. He says he will withdraw the fine provisions; however, the fine provisions were the only things that made the legislation mandatory. It is almost a week since the bill's bungled introduction. The minister has still not indicated how the legislation will be made mandatory or if it will be mandatory. We have seen no amendments from the minister. We haven't seen any indication of when the minister intends to have second reading.

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Food table today his amendments to Bill 105 and agree to send this badly flawed legislation out for public hearings so we can get input from the farmers of the province and try to eliminate the confusion and concern caused by the government?

TVONTARIO

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): It gives me great pleasure to congratulate TVOntario on the exemplary steps it has taken under its new chair and chief executive officer, Peter Herrndorf, to correct the spending excesses and managerial errors that were identified in last year's special audit. This fall, the Provincial Auditor gave TVO a clean bill of health.

TVOntario also deserves praise for its ability to manage substantial provincial funding cuts of \$5.3 million this year, with more to follow. We might expect these cuts to result in the loss of programming and employee morale, but not so. TVOntario's employees show renewed energy and excitement, while programming has not suffered. TVOntario is determined to make up the provincial funding shortfall by increasing revenue from other sources, such as viewer donations and corporate underwriting.

Indeed, TVOntario's new season rises to a level of excellence that Ontarians should be proud of. I have especially enjoyed the increased emphasis on current affairs. For instance, the new legislative program, *Between the Lines*, which is hosted by former Queen's Park reporter Steve Paikin, is outstanding. Based on the intelligence and creativity that Mr Paikin demonstrated in his coverage of the Ontario Legislature, I knew that his new program would be a great success.

I am confident that the emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship under Mr Herrndorf's leadership will ensure TVOntario's continuing success as Ontario's public educational broadcaster.

CITY OF LONDON

Mr David Winninger (London South): I rise in the House today to congratulate the city of London, where my home riding of London South is located. In a survey conducted by the Financial Times, London was rated as the best-managed city in Canada.

On measures of the cost of delivering municipal services such as policing, fire protection, roads, waste, transit and municipal government, London surpassed 12 other major Canadian cities. The mayor has said that this will make London, which is already a good place for business to invest in, even better.

We can take pride in this confirmation of what most Londoners already feel. I would also add that a city is much more than the best-balanced books and the most well-maintained fixtures. A city is also about people.

A good measure of any place is how the least well-off are faring balanced against how high the average income might be. As city councillor Joe Swan says, the social side of London could stand substantial improvement. We must not forget the low-income people and the working poor and how much there is still to be done in providing affordable housing.

I know London is a good place for capital investment. I laud London as the best-managed city in Canada, but I also look forward to it being an even better place for all people.

APPRECIATION

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: It's my privilege to thank the Minister of Energy for helping me out with a problem I had in my area which I brought to his attention last week.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I haven't heard a point of privilege of that nature before, but I think it's quite in order. I thank the honourable member for bringing it to my attention.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

LONG-TERM CARE

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I'd like to take time today to add to my comments of last week on the next steps in our fundamental restructuring of Ontario's long-term care system. The framework for this restructuring is a product of one of the most comprehensive and democratic consultation processes ever undertaken by the government.

My colleagues the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Citizenship and I are glad that we took the time to consider the thousands of comments and suggestions we received in the consultation. They helped us redefine certain aspects of our policy to better meet the needs of consumers of the long-term care health and social services system.

For example, the consultation told us that our long-term care redirection was too narrowly focused. It was stressed over and over again that we needed to create a system that provides a continuum of services for Ontario citizens: a continuum that begins by promoting good health and offering the support services needed in communities, then addresses the greater requirements of residents in long-term care facilities and in institutions and, finally, is sensitive to the needs of the terminally ill and their families. And if we are to do it right, we also need greater integration of long-term care health and social services throughout the system.

In the report to be released in January we will provide more details on the consultation and the resulting policy decisions, to be followed by an implementation framework in the spring.

Aboriginal organizations are continuing to consult with their members, and I await the results to be presented to my ministry in the next few weeks. The future planning and management of aboriginal services will be guided by the recommendations of these consultations and ongoing discussions with aboriginal organizations.

In the new year, I also expect to receive the report of the chronic care role study, which will allow us to address the very important role these hospitals will play in our long-term care system.

1350

Last Thursday I announced that district health councils would be asked to restructure their long-term care planning capacities to ensure the inclusion of representatives of municipalities, social service planning and delivery sectors and consumers. My colleagues and I believe that our new system should place the emphasis where it belongs: on community-based services that will be locally planned and delivered.

By changing the composition of their long-term care subcommittees, district health councils will be able to assume the lead role in planning for long-term care and the reconfiguration of local services in their communities.

Rather than continue with separate case management programs to determine eligibility and purchase service from community agencies, we will, over time and in an

orderly way, integrate the functions of case management and service delivery. We will bring together existing agencies such as home care, placement coordination services and a range of service delivery agencies to create comprehensive multiservice agencies.

What this means, quite simply, is that for the first time in Ontario, people will be able to have access to a full range of long-term care services through a single agency, a single access point.

Local planning will ensure that these agencies are designed in such a way as to be sensitive to local need. The model for Kingston may be quite different from the one that is developed by and for Sault Ste Marie, for example.

This will mark a major departure from the way we have been doing business, a change that was strongly recommended by consumer and provider groups during our consultation.

As an interim measure, I am pleased to announce today that the province will be providing \$133.5 million of the \$647.6-million redirection budget for the expansion of integrated homemaker services in 17 home care program areas that do not yet have them. This service will be available to consumers whether or not they need professional health services. As a result, homemaker services will soon be more available across the province, a major step in redressing the serious inequities in service distribution that currently exist.

Those parts of the province that will soon receive new funding to establish integrated homemaker services are Durham, Elgin, Haldimand-Norfolk, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Hastings, Kent, Kingston, Lambton, Niagara, northwestern Ontario, Peel, Simcoe, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Wellington-Dufferin, York and the remainder of Metropolitan Toronto.

This means that an elderly woman in Hamilton, for example, could now have someone come to her home and help her with bathing and dressing, or a husband in Timiskaming who is caring for his ailing wife in their home could get some assistance with homemaking and meal preparation.

Both the elderly woman and the couple will now be able to receive this type of help, whether or not they need professional health care service, and all will be able to live with dignity and independence in their homes and communities. In the past they may have had no choice but to give up independent living and move into an institution.

To our government, effecting a shift from institution to community also means relocating employment. Agencies receiving this new funding will be required to work with the hospital training and adjustment panel to facilitate the hiring of laid-off hospital workers.

As I mentioned earlier, the redirection of long-term care services will address the need for a continuum of services, from wellness and health promotion to palliative care.

I am also pleased to announce today that the government is adopting a palliative care policy for Ontario. During the consultation, we heard from the families of the

terminally ill that they need a greater range of support services to care for their loved ones in their own homes.

To meet their needs, the government will provide \$4.82 million on an annual basis starting in 1993-94 for palliative volunteer visiting programs, for the education of more than 1,000 community-based service providers and for the establishment of 14 pain and symptom control teams. These teams, located across Ontario, will provide consultation and backup to persons delivering palliative care services in the community. This initiative will be funded separately from the \$647.6-million redirection budget.

I cannot stress how important it is for us to get the restructuring of long-term care right. The government, together with its partners in this endeavour, will be laying the foundation of a system that will serve us for decades to come.

We are determined to transform the long-term care system so that it is more effective, more efficient and better equipped to meet the challenges of the future for seniors, their care givers, adults with physical disabilities and those who need health and support services at home.

I want to say that because of the profoundly collaborative nature of the policy development process, I feel there is great wisdom and creativity in the new directions we are proposing for long-term care. These initiatives are essential to improve long-term care now. They are also essential to prepare our long-term care system to meet the increasing demands of the future.

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I'm pleased to be able to respond to the minister's statement today. I would have to say that we are always happy to hear that something may be happening as far as long-term care goes. We really have been waiting now since this government took over to get this long-term care on the road, because it is so needed out there. Seniors everywhere need to know that they are going to be able to be served, they need to know that there is coordination out there and stability and that they have nothing to fear.

I would certainly like to echo the remarks my colleague the member for Halton Centre made last week that we are committed to long-term care reform. The minister knows that. In fact, I think all sides of this House are committed to the concept of long-term care reform and those that were established, of course, and started by the third party, as well as ours, and now, hopefully, we're going to see some action. It is good to see that we have another piece of the puzzle in the long-term care taking shape.

I have to mention that the extension of the integrated homemaker program to the rest of the province is certainly very commendable and one that is needed. But we really need the funding now. We need that funding to be there to establish that, we need the funding to flow and we need it to start to flow. Hopefully, that is going to be seen, because sometimes this doesn't always happen.

After two years of consultations we really would like to see something now, rather than having to wait until 1996 or 1997. I know many seniors call our office, and I'm sure many other members' offices, when their time for service is cut back and they really need the hours of service. I

hope this will really be an expansion and the service will be there.

The palliative care announcement is very welcome and certainly one that the senior consumers' alliance and other groups were very adamant about. But again, it raises another series of questions. This is to be a new thrust, and so education comes to mind in something as important as this. The education of the providers is very important. I know you have mentioned that \$4.8 million is coming out of the home care program to go towards this.

Hon Ms Lankin: In addition.

Mrs Fawcett: In addition to, yes, but then is some of that money going to be earmarked for education, or how will the places that really need this be able to afford to send people away?

It only comes to mind that I was speaking to our administrator of the home for the aged. So often in the past, with their budgets set, an opportunity for education would come up and then it is not possible because they can't afford to go over.

I was certainly glad to see the minister recognize the need for local—and I stress the word “local”—comprehensive multiservice agencies. However, the establishment of these agencies on top of agencies you announced last week really begs the question of coordination and efficiency, and should the 14 regional long-term care offices continue to exist only to administer the finances that are to be spent to facilitate the decisions of the district health councils? We would like to know exactly what finances will be spent between now and 1996.

The concept of long-term care, as I said before, has been one that all governments agree on. However, the minister's vision of long-term care reminds me of a jigsaw puzzle. Last week we had one piece, and then this week, today, we have another piece, and then maybe in January there will be another piece. Somehow it's got to all come together and be coordinated.

But I think the biggest question that remains in my mind is that the minister's been very adamant about soliciting consumers' opinions and advice, yet by the creation of her many service coordination agencies, it's going to be clear that maybe the consumers' choices will be taken away from them, and I sincerely hope that doesn't happen.

1400

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): In the absence of our Health critic today, I'd like to make a few comments with respect to the minister's statement.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the fact that the government has finally lived up to one of its commitments, that is, the expansion of integrated homemaker services. That's the good news, Mr Premier. There's more to come, not all of it good.

The next thing I would like to say is that I note that the government plans to introduce a comprehensive multiservices agency. This is to replace the 12 regional offices now that have been transferred to the Ministry of Health with respect to these items. But in the briefing meeting this morning, I understand that Ministry of Health officials were unable to provide any costing with respect to what

that administrative cost will be and how it would compare to the current system.

I also would like to note that when the government introduced its legislation last week, I believe, they provided for the government providing capital funding for non-profit nursing homes. I think we can see a trend here that this government has. It's the same as their philosophy towards day care. There seems to be no room for the private sector whatsoever any more in the province of Ontario, despite the fact that the private sector may be able to do it better, more economically and more efficiently than the government can do it.

The last point I'd like to make with respect to this statement is about the levels-of-care funding formula. Nursing homes and homes for the aged were promised this formula on several occasions. They were promised previously that this would be in place by January 1, 1993, and we're now being told by the government that it'll be some time in the spring of 1993. If that turns out to be like the former Attorney General's definition of “some time in early fall,” I guess the next question I would have is, which year?

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): In responding to the statement by the Minister of Health, I would just like to make a few comments as it pertains to people with disabilities. When we look at the subject of long-term care, the people with disabilities are some of the major users. We certainly heard and saw, a week ago today, on the front lawns of Queen's Park over 4,000 people who came down to say to this government: “We need your help. We don't need your cuts.” Those were the representatives of community living associations around this province.

I recognize that this is a shared responsibility through two or three ministries, including the Minister of Health, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the minister responsible for disability issues, but I say simply to the Minister of Health that I hope she can use whatever persuasion she has at the cabinet table for the need for expanded services for the residents of the institutions, who are hopefully going to be able to live outside of those institutions; but in order to do that, when they come home, they're going to need alternative accommodation and a lot of help from all three ministries. This is a well-documented fact, it's certainly a well-documented need, and these people are looking to this government, including this minister, for help with their community-based services, which presently do not exist to the extent that they are needed, even without further deinstitutionalization of some of those family members.

So we simply say that while supportive services are extended through this announcement, there is still a lot of work to be done by this government to meet the real needs of people in this province, and I particularly speak about the people with disabilities, both physical and developmental disabilities. I hope this government will start to prioritize in terms of human need, and put these people at the top of their list.

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon a former member of the assembly currently seated in the members' gallery west, the former member for Waterloo North. Welcome, Mr Herb Epp.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
VIOLENCE FAITE AUX FEMMES

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's my understanding that we had unanimous consent for there to be brief statements with respect to the commemoration of the tragic events in Montreal three years ago.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Agreed? Agreed.

Hon Mr Rae: The entire country was united in a sense of national grief three years ago when we began to come to terms with the tragic shooting of 14 young women in Montreal. Like no other event in recent memory, this tragedy, I think, has mobilized awareness and understanding among the entire population about the question of violence against women.

This is an issue that transcends peoples, races and cultures. It certainly transcends politics. It's not my intention today to give an account of any of the policy directions of the government with respect to this issue or to outline in some broad governmental way the various programs which have been in place for some time and were put in place by previous governments and have been carried on, maintained, expanded or whatever by other governments.

I simply want to say that I think it's entirely right and appropriate that we spend a brief moment reflecting on the extent of that tragedy, that we carry on vigilant against those examples and cases of violence against women, of abuse against the more than half our population, and that we take note of this date and of this week and of this time as one in which a growing number of people are joining together in wearing the white ribbon, and in speaking out and in taking steps in our own lives and in our own behaviour to meet this extraordinary challenge which we all share.

I want simply, on this occasion, to say that on behalf of the members of my caucus and on behalf of members of the government, we take this day as a day of memory and also as a call for action. I'm sure we're joined in those sentiments by all members in the House.

Il y a trois ans, tout le Canada, et je dirais même tout le monde a été uni pour un moment assez bref par une tragédie énorme, la tragédie à Montréal où quatorze femmes ont été tuées par un homme. Cette journée et cette semaine, depuis ce temps-là, sont devenues des semaines et des jours de souvenir et aussi un appel à l'action, action nécessaire pour vraiment vaincre cette terrible violence faite contre les femmes.

De temps en temps nous avons des arguments partisans, de temps en temps nous avons des différences d'opinions, mais aujourd'hui nous sommes tous unis d'abord par un sens profond de mémoire de cet événement si triste, si difficile, si dur et si tragique pour les jeunes

femmes et leur famille. Nous sommes tous d'accord, j'espère, qu'il y a beaucoup plus que nous pourrons faire ensemble.

1410

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): This is not a pleasant or easy topic to discuss, but too many people across Ontario, both men and women, have been silent for too long.

It is a myth that wife assault occurs more often among certain groups of people. In fact, wife assault occurs in all ethnic, racial, economic, social and age groups. However, violence in more affluent groups is often hidden because these women use shelters, legal clinics and other social services less often than others. No one in Ontario is immune, regardless of where they live or what they do for a living.

This issue really hit home for me recently when I learned, in my own riding of Timiskaming, of a recent study and survey that estimated that one in four women have experienced some form of violence against them, from physical abuse of young girls, to rape, to spousal abuse.

The significance of choosing one day to call attention to the issue of violence against women should not end when we take off our ribbons at the end of the day, because the violence does not end at the end of the day.

In Ontario, one woman in five experiences some form of violence in her home. In Canada, at least one woman in 10 is battered by her partner. This translates into more than 200,000 women in Ontario alone who are victims of assault; 57% of all women murdered in Canada in 1989 died as a result of domestic violence.

The term "wife assault" is applied to physical or psychological abuse towards one's mate. The assault can take many forms, including hostage-taking, intimidation, forcible confinement, uttering of threats and murder.

It is suspected that three quarters of men who abuse their wives grew up in homes where their fathers beat their mothers. Sons of battered women are a thousand times more likely to beat their wives than men who grew up in homes free of violence.

In 1981, police laid charges in only 3% of cases, although 20% of victims were advised to get medical attention. A directive instructing police to lay charges in all domestic assault cases where reasonable and probable grounds exist was issued because of this. By 1988, police in Ontario laid criminal charges in 51% of all occurrences reported to police.

A Canada-wide survey shows that 61% of women physically or sexually assaulted by male partners are injured in the attack. Further, assaulted women may be more likely to attempt suicide than women who are not assaulted.

The South Temiskaming Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Violence Against Women put out a flyer recently to call attention to violence against women, and I'd like to quote briefly from that.

"If it were between countries, we'd call it a war. If it were a disease, we'd call it an epidemic. If it were an oil spill, we'd call it a disaster. But it's happening to women,

so it's just an everyday affair. It is violence against women. It is rape at home and on dates. It is the physical abuse that one in four women experience in their physical relationships. It is sexual harassment at work and sexual abuse of the young. It is murder.

"There's no secret enemy pulling the trigger. No unseen virus that leads to death. It's just men. Men from all social backgrounds and of all colours and ages. Men in business suits and men in blue collars. Men who plant fields and men who sell furniture. Not weirdos. Just regular guys."

In closing, I can only hope that by all of us by speaking out, perhaps we can help stop one man from raising his hand in anger or encourage one woman to seek help.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I too would like to make a few comments with respect to the white ribbon campaign and a few comments to remember the Montreal tragedy.

This week we mark the national white ribbon campaign to remind us that men's violence against women must be stopped. The need for men to join with women in this battle has never been more compelling than it is today.

Today we recall the horror and tragedy of women's lives cut short by men. The campaign began in December 1991 by a group of men from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston and London who felt they had a responsibility to speak out against men's violence against women.

The statistics against violence towards women are alarming and very quickly lead me to believe that this problem must be dealt with by all levels and genders of society, not exclusively men or women. One in four women in Canada is expected to be sexually assaulted at some time in her life. One in seven women is a survivor of spousal abuse. Two out of three women sexually assaulted were attacked by men they knew. Sexual harassment is a pervasive problem in workplaces and schools.

Every group in society must make a decision that this is a problem that can only be solved with everyone getting involved. Men and women must work together to decide that they are not going to look the other way when they feel friends and relatives are being abused. Men and women must decide together that education and awareness are the first and most important steps to solving this problem within our society.

I will be wearing a white ribbon this week to support the White Ribbon Campaign, and I urge men all over Ontario to do the same. The white ribbon is a call to men to lay down their arms which they continue to use against women. It is a call for the men in our society to support our female family, colleagues and friends in a fight to stop this abuse. It is a call to pressure our governments to take decisive action and provide the needed education within all society, rehabilitation for abusers, and the shelters necessary for battered women.

It is now time to move from ribbons to legislation and from legislation to program implementation, to begin to address violence against women and its root cause in our society.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): My question today is for the leader of the government. Mr Premier, like most Ontarians, I've had the opportunity over the last 24 hours to at least hear about, and in my case to read, the 1992 annual report of the Provincial Auditor. I think it is fair to say that most Ontarians awakened today to the annual news of misadventure, I suppose I could say, in the expenditure of public funds. I think we all understand, in the current environment, just how concerned taxpayers are about how well we manage the dollars that taxpayers provide.

This auditor's report, like every other auditor's report, can necessarily only concern itself with those horses which have fled the barn. It is necessarily retrospective. But against the backdrop of what the auditor said and against the clear concern that's in this recession-ridden economy about efficiency in government and government-imposed costs, can I ask the Premier this question:

It goes back to a question I raised with his colleague the Treasurer a few weeks ago, and that is this: At this point in the economic history of this province, when we face some of the worst economic numbers and some of the worst unemployment we have experienced in a long, long time, we have a major government agency, the Workers' Compensation Board, which is embarking upon new office space. Office space at this time in the city of Toronto, as the honourable Premier knows, is in abundant oversupply.

Will the Premier give the taxpayers of Ontario an assurance that as leader of the government of Ontario in these troubled times, he is going to use his influence to stop the Workers' Compensation Board from spending \$200 million, which clearly the Workers' Compensation Board does not have, to build what will be some of the most expensive office space in Metropolitan Toronto at a time when there is 27 million empty square feet of commercial office space in Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'm advised that the information which the member shared with the House when he last asked this question, that the rental rate to be paid by the WCB—I think \$380 a foot was the figure he used. I'm advised by people who know about these things that the member's rental description is an absurdity and in fact bears no relationship at all to the facts. I must say I'm not astounded by that, since I'm getting used to that from the honourable member.

It's anticipated, according to the information that's being put forward by the board, that the rental rate will be very competitive with current market rates for existing facilities over the 20-year term of the lease.

Now I just want to indicate to the member that the WCB, acting in good faith, reached certain contractual arrangements. The fact of the matter is that it simply isn't possible for us, in terms of responding instantly, to say yea or nay to that without incurring certain other consequences of a financial nature as well. So I would say to the member, the Treasurer continues his review with respect to the

overall approach that's being taken, but I want to say to him that the information that he's put out, that somehow it's \$380 a foot, is just false.

1420

Mr Conway: The Premier announced in a scrum the other day that the problem with question period is that it bears no relationship to reality. Well, I want to bring the Premier back to the reality of his own government's numbers.

The numbers are—put out by the government—that at this time, in the midst of this recession, in this city, where there's 27 million square feet of vacant commercial office space retailing at an average price of between \$15 and \$22 a square foot, the Workers' Compensation Board, a government agency that is awash in financial difficulty and is faced with all kinds of pressure from injured workers, is going to take up 525,000 square feet at a cost initially of \$200 million on some of the most expensive ground in the city of Toronto, down at Front Street and Union. Those are the numbers that the government put out.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr Conway: My question remains: In light of the severe financial situation in which both the government and the Workers' Compensation Board now find themselves, and in light of yesterday's auditor's report, which reminds the taxpayers of this province of how much we have to do to ensure that there is more efficiency in the way in which we superintend their tax dollars, how is it possible that the Premier's government is going to allow a major government agency to undertake this kind of office relocation at this time?

Hon Mr Rae: Obviously, the Treasurer's going to be reviewing it, but I want to stress to the honourable member that the WCB caters, with the client base that it has, to people who have very special needs with respect to the kind of office building that's appropriate and the kind of access that wants to be ensured. The WCB will retain a 75% ownership in the building, which means that it will maintain an equity interest and that the investment fund will maintain that equity interest in the building, and that therefore it is something which will work to its advantage in that sense.

I say to the honourable member that I don't think I need to take any lectures on responsibility from the honourable member. It was his government that allowed the unfunded liability at the WCB to run up to \$9 billion, under the previous government.

I want to say to the honourable member that the facts he's presented to the House are not correct with respect to the overall cost over a 20-year period, and he has to consider the overall 20-year lease costs which are being projected, and they bear no relationship to the kinds of numbers which he's put forward.

Mr Conway: I'm just simply using the numbers that the government put out. I want to add that the incontrovertible reality is that this city is swimming in excess commercial office space. The Workers' Compensation Board is awash in billions of dollars of unfunded liability. The em-

ployers of this province, whom we are expecting to take us out of recession, are enraged at these government-imposed costs by the Workers' Compensation Board. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, among others, has expressed a real concern about this unbelievable move at this time.

The question remains: If the Premier and his government are to be taken seriously about the need to be more efficient in these troubled times of economic recession; if he expects to have any credibility with the universities, the colleges, the hospitals, all of his transfer partners who are going to have to fundamentally re-examine their operating and their capital accounts on the basis of his recent transfer announcements, how can he expect to have any credibility with those transfer partners—

The Speaker: Will the member complete his question, please.

Mr Conway: —and with the employers' community if he allows this unbelievable office relocation to occur, particularly under the commercial terms as announced?

Hon Mr Rae: The honourable member, first of all, stated last week that the cost is \$380 a foot, and I want to say to the honourable member that there's a 20-year lease. Then you look at a figure—the honourable member is really developing quite a reputation. This is like somebody who comes into the House and says almost anything that comes into his head on the basis of anything he's heard; just walking into the House and he asks you.

The figure is about one-twentieth of the figure you've announced. Those are the facts and that's the fact. You have a 20-year fixed lease. You have a commitment from the board that the investment will not affect in any way the unfunded liability or employer assessment rates as a result of the project. You have the fact that employer representatives on the board itself approved it—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —so the honourable member is coming up—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: —with arguments and with a case which bear no relationship to the facts whatsoever, and those are the facts.

The Speaker: New question.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Brampton North has the floor.

Mr McClelland: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. I refer the minister again to the auditor's report that was tabled yesterday.

Minister, the auditor states very, very clearly that there are some serious misgivings and in fact a complete lack of action in addressing some of the problems that fall into your

responsibility as Minister of the Environment, particularly with the issue of surface water quality in this province.

What the report says in essence, Minister, is that because of your dawdling and your almost concentrated effort on nothing but Metro Toronto's garbage, you're basically ignoring other problems, letting them slide, and literally hundreds of tons of contaminants, including persistent toxic chemicals, continue to flow into Ontario's waterways.

Minister, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, MISA, provides but one example. It shows, as the Provincial Auditor said, that the development of water quality regulations have been significantly delayed since your government took office.

I remind you, Minister, how you used to stand in opposition and rail against former governments and demand the opportunity. You promised, standing right in this place, that—I recall it very, very clearly, one day, on a non-confidence motion. You said: "Give me one year and I can have it in place. Just give me one year and I can do it."

Minister, when can we expect the final regulations to be completed for the nine industrial sectors and the municipal sector under the MISA regulations that you talk and talk on and now are unable to deliver?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): Let me start by saying that I think the honourable member has put a certain number of words in the Provincial Auditor's mouth that do not appear in the Provincial Auditor's report.

What the Provincial Auditor did say, and I certainly agree with his conclusion, is that the MISA industrial program has been considerably delayed. I regret that, but I point out to the member that even since the Provincial Auditor examined the programs of my ministry, the first of the MISA regs has been out for consultation.

In answer to the latter part of his question, let me assure him that the rest of the regs will be out long before the end of 1993. I'd like the opportunity to just remind the member of some of the factors built into the MISA program that have meant that not only did I miss the deadline; the deadline had been missed before I became the minister. In part, that was due to the incredible complexity and technical work that needed to be done to prepare the regulations, a very labour-intensive and technical-intensive program, as it was.

Secondly, in consultation, it's been a very consultative process and for that I make no apology.

1430

Mr McClelland: It's true, Minister, that you have been consulting and it seems that's all you're doing. Time after time you stand in the House and make announcements about the consultation process you're engaging in. At the end of the day, whether it be waste management, people end up turning and saying there was no really meaningful consultation of any kind. Consultation involves listening as well, Minister.

Also, the auditor goes on and points out that you consult to the nth degree and throw up your hands in the air and say, "We can't get unanimity on some things." The only thing you can get unanimity on, I might add, is the

opposition to your ill-conceived waste management problems. But you come here and say: "We have difficulty consulting. It's complex and we can't move ahead."

The Provincial Auditor also pointed out the slow progress made by you in carrying out anything with respect to the remedial action plans. Along the Great Lakes, 17 areas known as toxic hot spots have been identified by the International Joint Commission. You're very familiar with that, Minister. These action plans were designed to clean up the hot spots.

The auditor concluded, Minister, that the provincial government has done between little and nothing to move these programs along. He cites lack of coordination and lack of leadership. The auditor's report says, "It is evident that insufficient direction and support from the ministry"—I think we can read "minister"—"is also a factor in the slowness of RAP progress."

Minister, why have you been so content with the slow progress of the RAP programs? Notwithstanding the fact that I asked you in estimates and you said things were moving along just fine, the auditor seems to have a different view. When will you give some direction, the direction that the auditor says you need to have, that you need to assume the responsibility?

I remind you again—

The Speaker: Could the member complete his question, please.

Mr McClelland: —of your sanctimonious statements in opposition on how you could get the job done. You were high on rhetoric. You've now been given the opportunity for two years to deliver. The auditor says that you're unable to deliver. When will you do it, Minister?

Hon Mrs Grier: The honourable member's questions are very interesting. Let me remind the honourable member that with respect to the MISA program I have certainly been contacted by the Leader of the Opposition and urged, because of the difficult economic times, not to produce regulations under MISA that might cause any particular hardships to industries in this province. On the one hand I have the member saying, "Speed up MISA," and on the other hand I have the Leader of the Opposition saying, "Slow down MISA." When there's a consistent message from the opposition, it will be easier to respond to the questions.

But let me say to the member with respect to the remedial action plans that he again undervalues the progress that is being made in 17 communities around this province. In Collingwood I was pleased to join with my colleague the member for that area from the third party in a town that is moving to have its remedial action plan delisted as the first of the areas in the Great Lakes where in fact it will no longer be an area of concern. Others are moving to stage 2 and in fact very real progress—not enough, not fast enough, but certainly not at the pace that the member opposite seems to describe.

Mr McClelland: I hasten to remind you that it's not only myself. The Provincial Auditor, who looked at this independently in an objective analysis, says that you're way off track in terms of your timing.

Again, Minister, I bring you back to the lofty rhetoric that you were so free to flow with in your time in opposition. At that point you had all the answers and knew how to do it. We find now that if we measure the progress that took place between 1985 and 1990 against the progress in the first two years of your administration, there is absolutely no comparison. You have done virtually nothing in terms of water quality issues in this province, Minister, and you continue to find excuses and roll it off and say it's a matter of rhetoric.

I draw you back to your rhetoric. I don't really care what I have to say about it, Minister. How about your own words, the fact that you said that you could get the job done and railed constantly about the inability of former governments which have done much, much more in their terms than you have even begun to do?

Minister, the auditor also talked about the problems of watershed contamination. The auditor says that you have not addressed that at all.

The Speaker: Could the member place his supplementary, please.

Mr McClelland: The auditor says that you have not even begun to address that. Minister, if you've done nothing, as stated by the Provincial Auditor—and that's what the auditor says, that you've done nothing on that issue—when will you begin to see that there are environmental problems facing the citizens of Ontario that are outside of the current waste management problems, get the blinkers off, begin to deal with some of the real issues, deal with the watershed issues, getting coordination with the other ministries involved? Maybe the next auditor's report will say that you've done something, as opposed to nothing, Minister.

Hon Mrs Grier: To say that nothing has been accomplished is absolutely inaccurate. Let me remind the honourable member of the list of accomplishments that this government has had with respect to protecting the environment.

We have made pollution prevention the cornerstone of our environmental protection policies; we have established a pollution prevention pledge program with industry; we have worked cooperatively with industries such as the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute to prevent pollution; we have signed agreements and memoranda of understanding with the Big Three auto makers; we have done the scientific work to identify the toxic 21, the most persistent chemicals that are found in our waterways; we have banned incineration and come to grips with airborne pollutants which are a major contributing factor to the degradation of the Great Lakes; and our waste reduction action plan—and waste has contributed in many ways to water pollution—is the most effective reduction plan on this continent, second to none.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Premier, yesterday the entire NDP caucus voted unanimously in favour of proceeding with market value assessment for Metro Toronto. The city of Toronto has warned what this will do to its downtown core, partic-

ularly on top of all of the other problems and the other taxation and other efforts of government. Cumulatively now they say this will be the nail in the coffin.

We are talking about the downtown core, the economic engine that drives the whole greater Toronto area, and it is becoming apparent that we could lose this heart and soul of, indeed, many would argue, if not the country, the province of Ontario.

Given that market value assessment is now a reality, Mr Premier, I would like to ask you this: How do you intend to assist our already overtaxed and overthreatened downtown core to ensure that it doesn't collapse altogether?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, I'd be interested to know what the position of the honourable member is, since I'm not quite clear what his position is, and perhaps he'll tell us what that is in due course.

But I would say to the honourable member, we made a decision as a cabinet and as a caucus and as a government that we would give to Metropolitan Toronto the right to work out a compromise with respect to property tax reassessment within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto.

He describes it as a market value assessment scheme. I would say to the honourable member, in comparison with any other market value assessment scheme anywhere else in the province, this is a proposal which does rejig and rework some assessments but it cannot be described under any sort of fairly neutral description as any kind of wholesale shift to market value assessment.

Many of the criticisms and comments and many of the concerns that were raised by people over the last number of years have been raised with respect to a move or shift to pure market value assessment, which would have produced enormous increases in some rents and huge reductions in others. What has been worked out by Metropolitan Toronto council represents a different approach, if you will, and this government decided that it would be better on balance to allow Metro council to proceed. In terms of the impacts, obviously we will be monitoring very carefully, as any government would, as any government should, the nature of the impacts and exactly what is taking place.

But I want to say to the honourable member—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the Premier conclude his response.

Hon Mr Rae: I want to say to the honourable member, it is of concern to me that he would continue to simply adopt the rhetoric that would suggest some kind of absolute calamity that is taking place when in fact the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto has had to work out a very tough balance and, in our view, the municipality—

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response.

Hon Mr Rae: —like all the other municipalities in the province ought to be given the right to make those decisions, and that's the issue before us.

Mr Harris: I think I was very clear in the question. I wasn't adopting any rhetoric. I was talking about the

cumulative effect. You can talk about rejig this, rejig that. The fact of the matter is you have decided unanimously, all members, not one dissenting voice, to proceed with market value assessment. That's a given, that's a fact. You weren't here for the vote yesterday. The fact of the matter is, there's not a dissenting voice.

Hon Mr Rae: Neither were you.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You weren't here either. That's a bit much.

The Speaker: Order.

1440

Mr Harris: But my question, Mr Premier, dealt with, given the reality that we're dealing now with the cumulative effect of what is occurring, you, Mr Premier—and this is a fact, Jack—and Floyd Laughren vehemently opposed the Liberal government's commercial concentration tax on businesses in the GTA.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): This is the pot calling the kettle black, isn't it?

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Harris: Yet, Premier, since you have taken over, you have happily taken over \$200 million from that tax from the city of Toronto core alone. Now, Premier, if you repeal the commercial concentration tax today, you would more than offset the annual effect of MVA on some of Toronto's businesses. I would ask you today—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Harris: —given that you've made up your mind on market value—

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Durham West, come to order.

Mr Harris: —and given that the cumulative effect of all of these taxes is destroying the heart and soul of my city of Toronto, of my province of Ontario, of my country of Canada, will you live up to your commitment and repeal the commercial concentration tax today?

Hon Mr Rae: The honourable member, since he did this in his preface, chose to draw attention to the fact that I was in Cambridge yesterday announcing 230 new jobs in that city, and I'm delighted to have been able to do that. I would only say to the honourable member, that's where I was. Where was he? Because I've got a record here of the vote and I don't see his name on the list.

On the issue of the commercial concentration tax which the member has raised—and I must say I've been waiting for the question from the honourable member and from others—I would say to him that obviously the Treasurer, in preparation for the budget, is going to be reviewing a number of issues. I think I can tell the honourable member that we are clearly going to be looking at a number of issues with respect to taxation, of which the commercial concentration tax is one.

So I will say to the honourable member, obviously that's an issue that would now be reviewed in the normal

course of preparation for the budget. I'm not announcing anything special with respect to that, except to say that the full panoply of provincial revenues, of provincial taxes, of provincial expenditures is obviously being reviewed in the context of the budget and that is the context in which this issue will be reviewed.

Mr Harris: I am pleased to know that the net loss of jobs yesterday was only 270. I thought the reason you and the Treasurer weren't here was because it was Provincial Auditor's day, but in fact I guess that was not the case.

Hon Mr Wildman: What were you doing yesterday?

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Harris: The fact of the matter is this, Premier: You've had two budgets, you've had two years, you've ripped another \$200 million right out of Toronto, you've ripped over \$300 million out of the GTA from a tax that you said was wrong.

In a recent meeting with Jean-Guy Bélanger, one of my new-found allies and friends, the head of the hotel and restaurant workers' union, he says that, "The commercial concentration tax taxes the space that working men and women, such as dishwashers, cooks, bartenders and waiters, use for their jobs," that it's a tax on jobs, that it's a tax on people, that it's a tax on exports.

I agreed with him, Premier, and I agreed that, in your absence and your lack of leadership, it would now be me to lead the fight for the brothers and the sisters fighting desperately for their jobs here in Toronto. You've had two years. The hotels are going bankrupt. The Sutton Place Hotel is now in receivership. Don't tell me anything about the normal course of events—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Harris: You've had ample opportunity—

The Speaker: Would the member place a question, please.

Mr Harris: Will you today live up to your commitment to repeal the commercial concentration tax as one of the measures to give the heart and soul of this province, downtown Toronto, a chance to survive?

Hon Mr Rae: I must say to the honourable member, I know how difficult it is in opposition. You go into these meetings and a group of people say, "We'd like to repeal the tax." I want to say to the honourable member that I think he's shown admirable courage in the face of enormous odds to go into one of those meetings and say: "Yes, I agree with you. That's a tax I'm going to fight to remove." Let me tell you something, that's what we've come to expect.

I say to the honourable member very directly we are obviously listening to what people are telling us. The Treasurer is reviewing very carefully the impacts and looking very hard at all these issues.

But I want to come back to another fundamental point. The honourable member will go into a meeting and say, "Yes, let's cut that tax, let's get rid of that." Then he'll go into another meeting and say, "Let's spend more money there," and "We support the auditor when he says, 'Let's

spend more money here or there on a selective basis.” Then he turns around and says, “Your deficit is too high.” Those are the kinds of contradictions which the people of Ontario are beginning to understand only too well.

MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is to the Premier. It’s related to his policy—or perhaps I should say policies—of dealing with members of his cabinet who are part of a police investigation.

The member for Kitchener, Mr Ferguson, resigned, based on allegations dating back over 20 years. The member for Elgin, Mr North, resigned following an allegation of misconduct. Both of these incidents were surrounded by a great deal of media attention.

Premier, I’ve been advised of an ongoing police investigation dating back to August of this year involving a number of very serious allegations related to the Minister of Government Services and raising questions of conflict of interest and political influence in the awarding of a government contract; allegations which, to my knowledge, you have not addressed publicly, perhaps because this matter has received little media attention.

Premier, could you indicate today to the House why you have not taken action in respect of this situation, and how Mr Wilson’s case differs from those of Messrs Ferguson and North?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member should know that I can’t comment on any allegation that he might make with respect to an investigation. It would be inappropriate for me to do so.

Mr Runciman: Mr Speaker, I think if you review Hansard, I was not making any allegations. I was asking the Premier specific questions in respect to the distinction between the problems he’s encountered with Mr North and Mr Ferguson and why he has dealt differently with this particular case.

In my view, this case—certainly on the surface they are extremely serious allegations, and some of the facts are clear and indisputable. For example, Mr Wilson did private business with a company doing business with his ministry. His family was dealing with the company while the tender was open. The company was awarded a contract. The company awarded the contract was paid by Mr Wilson the day after the tender was called. There are serious irregularities in the tendering process itself, including a decision to bypass the 10% bid bond requirement, even though it was stipulated in the tender. There a number of other serious considerations that the Premier should be aware of.

Again, I ask him, why has he taken a different tack with respect to this matter than he did with Mr North and Mr Ferguson?

Hon Mr Rae: I don’t think I can add very much to the answer I’ve given, except to say that I would not comment in any way, shape or form on an investigation, or indeed whether such an investigation is taking place.

Mr Runciman: I don’t know. If the Premier is unaware of this, I’d appreciate his being more forthcoming. I

would assume that he would be made aware of any investigation that involves a member of cabinet. This investigation was in the media; this investigation was commented upon in the media—I’ll grant you, regional media, the Kingston Whig-Standard—in August of this year. The investigation is ongoing and, I’m advised by the OPP, should be concluded some time within the next few weeks.

I’m asking you, Premier, based on what’s happened here, the fact that the minister clearly was doing business with this firm while it was involved in the tendering process with his own ministry, there are significant irregularities. And I’m not saying anything that’s not part of the public record here. These are serious concerns, serious allegations, and I ask you why you haven’t dealt with it. What’s the differences between the allegations made in respect to Mr North and Mr Ferguson? Have you talked to anyone? Are you familiar with this case? Have you spoken to Mr Wilson? Have you spoken to the deputy? Have you spoken to anyone in respect to this case? Why is this being handled differently?

Hon Mr Rae: I say very directly to the honourable member that all kinds of allegations can be made against an individual, and frequently those allegations are such that the information is passed on and in the ordinary course of events they’re the subject of some investigation by the OPP. I think it’s neither right or fair for me to comment on that in any way, shape or form. I have no intention of doing so, and I think what I’ve done and the practice I’ve followed is quite consistent with the approaches I’m following in this regard.

1450

ATTENDANCE OF PREMIER

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): My question is to the Premier. By way of preamble, yesterday the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology made a statement in the House about a \$4.8-million loan to a company that, if it’s successful and if it meets the preconditions of the loan agreement, may create 230 jobs over the next five years. That works out to less than one job per week; this, at a time when we are losing 500 jobs a day and at a time when a plant closes in Ontario every three days. The rhetoric of the announcement would lead one to believe that this could be the second coming of the Industrial Revolution. This event was considered of such importance that not the minister but the Premier himself travelled to Cambridge yesterday afternoon to make a speech to the company’s representatives. Today the Premier just commented that that was where he was and that he was doing things that were of great importance.

I hasten to add that I have no problem with the support this company is receiving, none whatsoever. The only thing I would comment on is that while we were in government we used to make announcements of this type, of this scope and of this size, several times a month, and we used to do it by a simple press release.

I now want to get to the heart of my question. I have a copy of the Premier’s itinerary for yesterday that was distributed to members in the legislative precinct and to the media. What it says is that at 12 pm the Premier would be

at the consular corps luncheon at the Ontario Club, Commerce Court South. This luncheon is hosted by the consular corps. It's an annual event so that the Premier can meet and mingle with those members of foreign representations in Toronto. It is considered of such importance that many consuls invite their ambassadors to attend.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member place the question, please.

Mr Kwinter: Yesterday, Mr Premier, over 200 people, including consuls, ambassadors and their wives attended the luncheon in anticipation of your presence at this event. There was only one problem: You didn't show up. You didn't send a representative. You didn't do anything; nothing. They didn't hear from you. Someone stood up and said, "The Premier is not coming."

Mr Premier, you didn't have the courtesy, the grace and the good manners to honour a commitment that you yourself made. It's listed in your itinerary.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member ask the question, please.

Mr Kwinter: I am asking the question. I am saying that the members of the consular corps are justifiably embarrassed and upset. Mr Premier, you and your government have been accused of incompetence, you have been accused of inexperience—

The Speaker: Would the member please place the question.

Mr Kwinter: —and now we can add one more, and that is stupidity. How else can you explain—

Interjections.

The Speaker: All right, just relax. Would the member for Wilson Heights please take his seat. Through it all, I don't know if the Premier actually heard a question, but there was a question with respect to his attendance.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will just say that there was some change in my plans, which was communicated to members of the consular corps, who were having their annual Christmas lunch. I will be attending a major reception, in fact hosting a reception, in January, so I indicated very clearly—

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Now you've got to host it to make up for it.

Hon Mr Rae: No, it's part of my normal schedule of events. If members of the consular corps came expecting to see me, I'm sorry I wasn't there, but there will be many other occasions on which I will be there and able to meet with them.

Mr Kwinter: Unfortunately, this is a pattern of this Premier. He did not attend. To bring it closer to home, this morning on his schedule it says that he is going to have a photo opportunity with the Queen's Park pages at the main staircase today. What happened? All of the kids got dressed up. They all came out. He didn't show. He doesn't show at these things. So this itinerary is a fiction. All I have to say to you, Mr Premier—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Kwinter: —is that I think you owe the consular corps—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order and the member to place his question, please.

Mr Kwinter: I think you owe the consular corps an apology, and I think you owe the people of Ontario an apology. As the personification of this government, as the so-called head of state of this province, you have embarrassed the people of Ontario, you've embarrassed the province and you should do the right thing and apologize to both of those groups.

Hon Mr Rae: I feel very badly about the pages. I was in cabinet and, as the member will appreciate, sometimes in terms of the schedule these things happen. I had cabinet today and couldn't simply walk out of cabinet at the appropriate time.

I would say to the honourable member that I look forward on many occasions to meeting with the consular corps, which I do on a regular basis and will continue to do on a regular basis.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAILING

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier regarding his government's concerted efforts to smear its critics.

Premier, in an NDP fund-raising letter signed by you personally—Bob Rae, not Mr Piper, not somebody else—dated October 14, you allege that your opposition, which you call "the Liberal right and the Tory right," would only provide three weeks of maternity leave in Ontario.

Premier, thanks to the federal government, six months is the law of the land and it is simply not true that any opposition to you could, even if they wanted to—and I don't know where you would find anybody who would want to—provide only three weeks of maternity leave. I would ask you this: Unless you can produce one shred of evidence to support your claim, I ask you to correct the record today, to admit that this is a fabrication and to apologize for yet another blatant effort to smear anybody who opposes the direction you are going in.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): It may be that from time to time we have legitimate differences of opinion, or perhaps we have expressions of a different point of view. I think to blow this up into something, a letter that was sent in the middle of October, is a little strange.

Mr Harris: Quite frankly, telling the truth is something that many people in this province took for granted from their political leadership until the Minister of Northern Development and Mines came along and until the new Bob Rae standards came along.

Earlier in this place today, in response to the member for Renfrew North, you said: "What would you do? You'll make up anything that comes into your head. Anything, you make up. It bears no relationship to the facts." Premier, you just wrote and signed a letter that you made up

in your head, that bore no relationship to the facts. I've asked you to apologize for misrepresenting or lying to the people of this province.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The honourable leader of the third party knows that he has used an unparliamentary term. I would ask him to withdraw it.

Mr Harris: I have, and I will withdraw that. Let me move on, since the Premier won't apologize for that, and ask him about this. The letter of October 14 goes on to say, "Our first step"—this is to get money out of unsuspecting, unwary people of this province—"is to expand pay equity to include 400,000 more Ontario women."

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member place a question, please.

Mr Harris: Premier, you know that's not true. You know you broke that promise last Thursday. Why did you personally sign such a letter, with such blatant untruths in it, in an effort to extract an extra dollar from the unsuspecting public of the province of Ontario?

Hon Mr Rae: I'll tell you: because the Minister of Labour introduced legislation last week which will in fact extend pay equity to 420,000 women. He knows that full well. It will in fact provide for fairer comparisons in terms of proxy and on the proportional basis. He knows that full well.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

1500

Hon Mr Rae: The only issue before us with respect to pay equity, since he's raised it in the rhetorical way that he has, is the period of time over which this will be staged in.

I will say to you, Mr Speaker, that we are phasing it in—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Have you read your householder lately, Bob? You said—

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Rae: —but to suggest that we're not doing it or not extending it is quite untrue. It's quite untrue.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Rae: The members—

Mr Harris: You cannot tell the truth. I know your cabinet can't. I know you have no standards. Can't you tell the truth?

Interjections.

The Speaker: No, no. All right, the leader of the third party—I'd ask first that the House come to order.

Interjections.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): —to send out hate literature—

The Speaker: Order. I would ask the honourable leader of the third party, followed by the honourable member for York Mills, to both in succession withdraw the unparliamentary language which was used. Then perhaps we can carry on in a calmer—

Mr Harris: I withdraw that remark.

Mr Turnbull: I will withdraw the statement on the understanding that—

The Speaker: No, the member may take his seat. Order. Will the member take his seat? If it's of any assistance to the member, all that's required is a simple withdrawal. Nothing else needs to be said, and I do appreciate the fact that the member withdrew the remark.

Mr Turnbull: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

LANDFILL

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is to the Minister of the Environment and the responsible for the greater Toronto area.

Last week, my friend across the way, the member for Markham, made a statement in the Legislature with respect to a document that has come to be in his possession, which he says comes from the office for the greater Toronto area, a document that he says is the discussion paper that the Interim Waste Authority will be circulating with respect to compensation. Compensation—

Interjections.

Mr Wiseman: Can you take a deep breath and just—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member for Durham West take his seat? I ask that members exercise a bit more restraint and that the member for Durham West direct his question to the chair.

Mr Wiseman: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was trying to get to the question of a document that has been circulated, and the member for Markham has a copy of it. It has to do with the compensation package that is being considered by the IWA.

My constituents are very concerned about that because no matter what happens in terms of my area and in terms of my constituency, this question of compensation, while it will never restore the community's faith in the process that has been continuously visited upon them, dump site after dump site, they believe this is a very important document.

My question to the minister is this: When will we know or have an idea or even begin to discuss the crucial issue? When will the IWA go to the communities with some sort of assurance that the damage that the dumps are going to create will be kept at a minimum, that their property values are protected and that they will know they will have as minimal an impact as possible on their way of life?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I certainly share the member's view that this is a very serious issue that must be addressed. At the time that Walter Pitman, the chair of the Interim Waste Authority, made the announcement that the list of potential landfill sites had been significantly reduced as they go into the next stage of the selection of the three preferred sites, he indicated that a discussion paper about compensation would be released very shortly. He did not give a date, but I understand that it is going to be shortly.

I believe that people who may be directly affected have quite rightly demanded that the Interim Waste Authority develop a position on acquisition of land, property values, community control of landfill operations and good design

and operation to reduce the impacts of a landfill. There will, of course, be public consultation at the time the discussion paper is released, and I hope that during that period the very real concerns of the residents in Durham West can be addressed.

Mr Wiseman: As I mentioned, the member for Markham just last week flashed before this House a copy of a document that he says is this consultation paper. I know my community has a copy of this paper, thanks to the member opposite who circulated it. How could it be that all the members of this House are not afforded the same privileges with respect to obtaining this documentation? It raises the question as to the source of this document and whether or not the IWA is truly at arm's length from the process when members opposite can get documentation and we can't.

Hon Mrs Grier: Let me reaffirm yet again that indeed the Interim Waste Authority is at arm's length from the government and is an independent agency that is fulfilling the direction of the government, which is to seek three landfill sites within the greater Toronto area to deal with the waste of the greater Toronto area.

If the member for Markham is circulating a paper, let me assure the member that it is not the final version of any compensation paper, because I said in response to his first question that it has not yet been released. I think it is, quite frankly, irresponsible to circulate draft versions of papers on an issue of such very real concern to people and to create even additional uncertainty to that which I know those people are already feeling.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): In the absence of the Premier, I'll ask my question of the Minister of Revenue. Minister, this has to do with your discriminatory tax against people who purchase used cars. I just want to give you a couple of quick examples.

I have an unemployed worker in my riding who paid \$400 for a 1985 compact car. The Canadian Red Book value is \$2,000. Based on the Red Book value, the tax would be \$180; \$180 for a car that he paid \$400 for and a car that doesn't run. So his option is to get it towed to a dealer, which would cost \$75, have it appraised, which would cost \$50, pay the \$180 in tax, which amounts to 40% of the purchase price, if you can imagine, to your government, and then hope that somewhere down the line you will reimburse.

I have a student who paid \$200 for a car from a friend with a Red Book value of \$1,000. The tax on that, under your tax, amounts to \$80, again 40% of what he actually paid.

This new tax penalizes the unemployed, the working poor, students and anyone else who has to buy a used car for whatever reason. My question is: Will you amend this tax law to allow these people to submit proof of purchase and to pay only the provincial sales tax of 8%, because they cannot afford the cash-flow that's necessary to get the appraisals and the towing of the vehicles and everything else that's necessary, and submit an appeal to prove to you that they only paid that amount? It's totally discriminatory

against the poor in this province. Will you amend your unfair tax law?

Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue): I thank the member for the question and the opportunity to respond.

As many of you are aware in this House and this Legislature, this is a new program that was introduced with the Treasurer's budget. We are presently consulting with the Treasurer, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Minister of Transportation on how the program is working, as the program just came into effect on October 1.

We are looking at perhaps making some administrative changes to deal with some of the consumer and client issues as they've come to the counters at the Ministry of Transportation. I would like to inform the member that we are looking at amendments, possibly within consultation with the other three ministries that are involved in this program.

1510

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): By way of supplementary, Madam Minister, I too have been receiving a number of complaints about this hidden tax imposed by you on the sale of used cars. I was quite interested to hear that you have been consulting with the Ministry of Transportation.

Madam Minister, I think you should be aware that an auction was held by the Ministry of Transportation on October 29, 29 days after the imposition of this tax. A number of cars were sold. Many of the cars sold were below the Canadian Red Book valuation, yet the tax was paid on the amount that was bid.

Let me give you two examples: 1987 Chevrolet Scottsdale, the bid price, \$4,000—there was a retail sales tax paid of \$320, 8%. The Red Book value by the Ministry of Transportation: \$7,150. Item 54, a 1987 Ford Crown Victoria, bid price \$750, retail sales tax paid, \$60; the Red Book value: \$5,975.

Will you give to the people in this province the exemption and consideration you are giving to yourself through the Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of Transportation?

Hon Ms Wark-Martyn: The retail sales tax changes, as we all know, came into effect on October 1 of this year. I believe you said the date of the sale was October 29. I don't know how this issue occurred. It was handled at the Ministry of Transportation, and my colleague the Minister of Transportation has heard the question and will look into it, as will I at the Ministry of Revenue.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. New question, the member for Lanark-Renfrew.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The minister provided a response. You cannot provide a response and then send the question somewhere else. She should have referred it at the beginning.

HYDRO RATES

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): My question is for the Minister of Energy. As the minister is aware, Ontario's major industries are being placed in financial jeopardy due to Hydro rate increases. Both Falconbridge, and General Motors in Oshawa, will face a \$9-million rate increase this year. Ontario's major industries are telling us they can't remain competitive in this province because of excessive rate increases. Will the minister issue a directive to the board of Ontario Hydro to cap the rate increase at 2% for 1993?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Energy): The direct answer to the member's question is no. A short-term, short-sighted approach like the member is suggesting, of just capping one year's rate increase without looking some distance into the future and understanding the potential impact of that kind of action, is just unacceptable to this government.

We are in the process, since September, of taking on the job of looking at Ontario Hydro's entire rate structure—it's a very complex rate structure—and looking specifically at the industrial rate structure in this province and how we can start to associate industrial rates that customers in this province pay to the huge surplus of energy that's out there. We will be in the position, in a very short time, to come forward with a very responsible package.

Mr Jordan: The minister didn't hesitate to use his directive power when he wanted to fire the president of Ontario Hydro. Now he's afraid to use his directive power, which he fought so hard to get under Bill 118, to bring Hydro rate increases somewhere near the rate of inflation.

An analysis by Grant's magazine, a prominent international publication for investors, indicates that the poor performance of Ontario Hydro has contributed to a drop in the Canadian dollar and has detracted from the strength of Ontario's credit rating.

If you will not give direction to the board, Mr Minister, what assurances will you give to Ontario's industries and investors that they will have certainty of supply and some certainty of reasonable cost?

Hon Mr Charlton: Again, the member's a couple of months out of date. I announced in September, at the time that the OEB reported on the rate increase as a result of its hearings this year for next year's rates, that we had an objective, to get the Hydro rates to the inflation rate as quickly as we could possibly responsibly get them there and to hold them there for the rest of this decade.

The package that we're now working on, including the industrial rates package, is a package that's designed precisely to provide some relief in the industrial sector in the short run and to create stability in the rate structure of Ontario Hydro in this province for a considerable period of time in the long run without jeopardizing, as the member would do, the financial viability of that corporation.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Minister of Labour has a response to a question asked earlier.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I'd like to respond to the question from the member for Waterloo North regarding WCB coverage of students and field placements.

Last summer, the WCB adopted interim guidelines that would cover all students under WCB in case of an accident on the job. This decision was carried out in response to employer concerns about a lack of consistent policies on coverage for students. This was an advantage to most employers, including most hospitals, our schedule 1 employers, because they did not incur any additional costs.

The member has expressed concern about a small segment of employers, such as ambulance services, because they do not fall under this category. They're under the schedule 2 category and must pay the costs if a student has an accident. To help resolve this issue with these employers, the board is undertaking consultations this winter with employers, workers and sponsors of training programs. It is very important that these training programs continue, and the Workers' Compensation Board is taking measures to ensure this happens.

It is also true that these students are exposed to the same risks as the paid workers and are entitled to the same protection and accident benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I'd like to indicate my dissatisfaction with the response given by the Minister of Revenue to both myself and the member for Mississauga West.

The Speaker: The member who asked the question is entitled to file dissatisfaction. I trust that if he is in fact dissatisfied, he will find the necessary document at the table.

PETITIONS

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): I'd like to present a petition on behalf of the member for Cornwall, Mr John Cleary. There are 4,601 signatures and the petition goes like this:

"To the Parliament of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The guidelines for control of meningococcal disease developed by the advisory committee on epidemiology state that those individuals who have had 'close contact' with a case of meningococcal disease are to be notified and administered antibiotics. One of the defining characteristics of 'close contact' is exposure through sharing of food or beverages. Since it is common practice for children in all grades at the elementary level to share food, drinks and chewing gum, we ask that the present guidelines be amended so that classroom contacts may be treated as 'close contacts' rather than 'casual contacts.' Parents of children who may have had close contact with an infected classmate have a right to be informed by their

public health officials so that they can take the appropriate preventive measures."

There are 4,601 signatures. I have signed the petition myself on behalf of Mr Cleary. Thank you.

1520

GAMBLING

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): Again, I add to the thousands of signatures on the issue of casino gambling.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has traditionally had a commitment to family life and quality of life for all the citizens of Ontario; and

"Whereas families are made more emotionally and economically vulnerable by the operation of various gambling and gambling ventures; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party government has had a historical concern for the poor in society who are particularly at risk each time the practice of gambling is expanded; and

"Whereas the New Democratic Party has in the past vociferously opposed the raising of moneys for the state through gambling; and

"Whereas the citizens of Ontario have not been consulted regarding the introduction of legalized gambling casinos despite the fact that such a decision is a significant change of government policy and was never part of the mandate given to the government by the people of Ontario,

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government immediately cease all moves to establish gambling casinos by regulation and that appropriate legislation be introduced into the assembly, along with a process which includes significant opportunities for public consultation and full public hearings as a means of allowing the citizens of Ontario to express themselves on this new and questionable initiative."

I sign this with great pleasure.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr John Sola (Mississauga East): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

It's signed by 45 residents of Mississauga and the Metropolitan Toronto area, and I have also signed it.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): I have a petition supported by a large number of people throughout the Muskoka area of my riding, and it goes:

"Whereas recent incidents at Beaver Creek minimum security prison in Gravenhurst, the latest involving the escape of a convicted murderer and the following alleged rape and beating of a local resident, have caused extreme concern among residents of the south Muskoka area regarding their future safety,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to establish a permanent canine unit in Bracebridge and to increase the number of OPP at Bracebridge to a level which will ensure the protection of the residents of this area."

CONSENT TO TREATMENT

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will be reviewing Bill 109, consent to treatment legislation, through the committee of the whole on Thursday, December 3, 1992;

"Whereas this legislation has undergone some 200 amendments from its introduction;

"Whereas the presumed age of consent of 16 years was removed from the legislation through these amendments;

"Whereas the removal of the age of consent interferes with the necessary role of parents in Ontario to support the medical, dental and mental health needs of children in Ontario,

"We, the executive directors of children's aid societies in the province of Ontario, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To make the families of Ontario aware of this legislation; and

"To reinstate the age of 16 as the age of consent."

I have signed this petition.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario government does not have a mandate to declare Ontario officially bilingual."

This is signed by approximately 1,900 people. The names were gathered at the London Western Fair in September and I'm just doing it now. I have assigned my name to this and dated it for your information.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): I have a petition to the members of provincial Parliament from Father J. Henry Cassano and parishioners at Seaforth and they come from the Seaforth, Goderich and Brucefield area, and also a petition—it is the same—from the area of Zurich, Hensall, Dashwood and Exeter. It reads:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38 which will eliminate Sunday

from the definition of a legal holiday in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter from the definition of a legal holiday and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

I do so sign.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, to condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and to reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London.

I've affixed my signature, and it's signed by a number of residents.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have another petition to the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario regarding the amendment of the Retail Business Holidays Act which proposes wide-open Sunday shopping and elimination of Sunday as a legal holiday, and it reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, hereby register my opposition in the strongest of terms to Bill 38, which will eliminate Sunday from the definition of legal holiday in the Retail Business Holidays Act.

"I believe in the need for keeping Sunday as a holiday for family time, quality of life and religious freedom. The elimination of such a day will be detrimental to the fabric of society in Ontario and cause increased hardship on many families.

"The amendments included in Bill 38, dated June 3, 1992, to delete all Sundays except Easter (51 per year) from the definition of legal holiday and reclassify them as working days should be defeated."

This is signed by 33 of the members of St Stephen of Hungary parish, 155 Bruce Street, in London, Ontario. I have added my name to this petition.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): I'd like to introduce a petition on behalf of my colleague Marilyn Churley, the member for Riverdale. It's signed by 19 employees from Holy Name Catholic school.

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the British North America Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this, the province of Ontario supports two educational systems from kindergarten to grade 12/OAC; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board educates more than 104,000 students across Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas these students represent 30% of the total number of students in this area, yet have access to just 20% of the total residential assessment and 9.5% of the pooled corporate assessment; and

"Whereas the Metropolitan Separate School Board is able to spend \$1,678 less on each of the elementary school students and \$2,502 less on each of its secondary school students than our public school counterpart,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to act now and restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal educational systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): This is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, a very fine petition:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected and respected Speaker by removing from that position the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

1530

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition from residents of Middlesex county, who ask the Legislative Assembly to set aside the report of arbitrator John Brant because it does not reflect the expressed wishes of the majority who participated in arbitration hearings, and it is not in the best interests of the London and Middlesex

area residents. While other plans exist, they believe that this one has provided too extensive an area of annexation to the city of London, will jeopardize agricultural land, the viability of the county of Middlesex and our rural way of life, and I have signed my name to this petition.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads:

"Whereas Premier Rae of the province of Ontario has forced upon the Ontario Legislature a change in the rules governing the procedures to be followed in the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has removed from members of the opposition the ability to properly debate and discuss legislation and policy in the Legislature by limiting the length of time a member may speak to only 30 minutes; and

"Whereas Premier Rae, who once defended the democratic rights of the opposition and utilized the former rules to full advantage in his former capacity as leader of the official opposition, has now empowered his ministers to determine unilaterally the amount of time to be allocated to debate bills they initiate; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has reduced the number of days that the Legislative Assembly will be in session, thereby ensuring fewer question periods and less access for the news media to provincial cabinet ministers; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has diminished the role of the neutral, elected Speaker by removing from that person the power to determine the question of whether a debate has been sufficient on any matter before the House; and

"Whereas Premier Rae has concentrated power in the Office of the Premier and severely diminished the role of elected members of the Legislative Assembly, who are accountable to the people who elect them;

"We, the undersigned, call upon Premier Rae to withdraw the rule changes imposed upon the Legislature by his majority government and restore the rules of procedure in effect previous to June 22, 1992."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills as amended:

Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital

Bill Pr65, An Act respecting the City of London.

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr71, An Act to revive Women in Crisis (Northumberland County).

Your committee recommends that the fees and the actual cost of printing be remitted on Bill Pr71, An Act to revive Women in Crisis (Northumberland County).

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TOWN OF LINCOLN ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Hansen, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr58, An Act respecting the Town of Lincoln.

CITY OF TORONTO (NATURAL GAS PURCHASE PROGRAM) ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Marchese, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr61, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES ACT, 1992

On motion by Mr Marchese, the following bill was given first reading:

Bill Pr64, An Act respecting the Institute for Christian Studies.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

ADVOCACY ACT, 1992, AND COMPANION LEGISLATION

LOI DE 1992

SUR L'INTERVENTION ET LES PROJETS DE LOI QUI L'ACCOMPAGNENT

Consideration of Bill 74, An Act respecting the Provision of Advocacy Services to Vulnerable Persons / Loi concernant la prestation de services d'intervention en faveur des personnes vulnérables; Bill 108, An Act to provide for the making of Decisions on behalf of Adults concerning the Management of their Property and concerning their Personal Care / Loi prévoyant la prise de décisions au nom d'adultes en ce qui concerne la gestion de leurs biens et le soin de leur personne; Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment / Loi concernant le consentement au traitement; and Bill 110, An Act to amend certain Statutes of Ontario consequent upon the enactment of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 and the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 / Loi modifiant certaines lois de l'Ontario par suite de l'adoption de la Loi de 1992 sur l'intervention, de la Loi de 1992 sur le consentement au traitement et de la Loi de 1992 sur la prise de décisions au nom d'autrui.

The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I'd just like to explain what's happening. We're on the second sessional day, and at 5:45 pm on that sessional day, which is today, "those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bills and any amendments thereto and report the bills to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions" etc.

There was also an agreement at that time, an understanding, that there would be all-party agreement to divide

the time equally. There was another agreement that rather than having the requirement of five people stand for each division, if either of the critics indicate there's a recorded division, then that would be adequate. If you agree with those agreements we had previously, we'll proceed that way. Do we agree? We agree.

Minister, do you have a comment to make?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I certainly do agree with what you've set out except that I believe we have unanimous agreement which supersedes one point. If I could just go through that before we move on with clause-by-clause consideration, there are a number of matters that affect this afternoon's proceedings that we have agreed to.

First of all, we have unanimous consent to end the debate on these bills at 5:30 pm today, at which time the Chair will read all of the amendments into the record and will then put all the questions. We continue the unanimous consent to divide the time for this debate equally between the three parties. And we have all-party agreement to move all Bill 110 motions and vote on them, even if some may technically be out of order. There are a number of proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act that have been discussed with the opposition, including amendments that allow us to bring the Mental Health Act changes into force in advance of the rest of the bill.

There's also an amendment to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act identical to the amendment made at the standing committee to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This is just to make the two acts consistent.

The proposed amendments are quite important, and I'm grateful to the opposition for agreeing to support them.

1540

The Chair: Okay. So we agree, first of all, that we end at 5:30; secondly, when there's a vote, only one person can stand; and thirdly, with Bill 110, everything will be deemed to be in order at that time. We all agree on that? Do you agree?

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): Yes, Mr Chair. We concur with the procedures the Minister of Health has put forward as per the agreement by the House leaders. I am asking further, and I believe that we have, unanimous consent to proceed with the bills in the order of Bill 74, Bill 109, Bill 108 and then Bill 110.

The Chair: Is that agreed? Agreed.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): One of the things about the agreement that upsets me a little bit, which I will agree to because my House leader did, is that we were going to deal with this debate yesterday, Tuesday, and I had made a request to the government House leader that he give us just a little more time so that we could go through these amendments.

I don't think anybody who's been watching these proceedings on television is under the illusion or under the understanding that either opposition party is trying to stall. We have made our arguments in a succinct manner and put them forward, but we would have appreciated just a little

time to deal with all the amendments, even in a short period of time. We had asked that the time be extended from 5:45 to 7 o'clock so that we'd have an hour and a quarter more in order to get through the amendments in some fashion.

It's really unfortunate that the government House leader, at this stage of this bill, which, of all the legislation we have dealt with in this Legislature over the two years this government has been in office—there has probably not been more cooperation between the various parties to try to reach a product that is workable in the end. It's unfortunate that the government House leader did not grant this minor concession at the very end of it. It would have, in my view, wrapped up a very consultative process. What's an hour and a quarter, when we're going to be talking till midnight tonight anyway? I think it was kind of childish on the part of the government House leader not to grant that request on Monday.

Hon Ms Lankin: I appreciate the fact that the member opposite is supporting the all-party agreement on this. I would just comment that I also agree with him that there has been tremendous cooperation of all three parties with respect to amendments to this legislation and to the process here in the House.

I do want to point out, however, that his reference to the events of yesterday and the request from his party to extend debate on this to 7 o'clock also were brought about as a result of the fact that there was a vote scheduled for yesterday which would have delayed us moving into commencing our committee of the whole deliberations, so it's not quite appropriate to suggest that it was simply denied.

In fact, I should suggest that moving committee of the whole today was to accommodate us to be able to have more time, because there aren't scheduled votes or other procedures today before moving into committee of the whole that would have delayed our commencing the discussion, other than if I go on too long, which takes up too much time and takes it away from the member opposite.

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship): You would never do that.

Hon Ms Lankin: I would never do that. Let me say that the discussions of the House leaders today—and all three parties participated and agreed to this time schedule—have as much to do with other issues that are scheduled for this evening's business.

The Chair: We'll now proceed, as agreed, with Bills 74, 109, 108 and 110. I believe the last motion that was moved was by Mr Wilson, the member for Simcoe West. It was section 16.1, and the debate was on at that time. Shall we continue?

Mr Sterling: Mr Chair, I had been, along with Mr Wilson, carrying this particular amendment. Under the legislation, Bill 74, as it now stands, if a person is dissatisfied with how an advocate has behaved or carried on his duties, there is going to be a discipline process whereby a member of the public can go to somebody and complain about this activity.

My concern, however, is that the legislation gives to the commission the right to set up the disciplinary process. Our amendment sets out a specific discipline process. I had said to the minister that my greatest concern about this is the fact that this is not like any other profession that is self-regulated.

We have here an employer-employee relationship. I'm not putting this forward just for the protection of the public; I'm also putting it forward for the protection of the commission, because it's my view that if you put an employer-employee into another relationship, of the determinant of a disciplinary process, the issues as between employer and employee will get mixed in with the discipline process. I think that at the very least the minister should set forward the discipline process in order to ensure that there is adequate representation from the community outside of the commission and that kind of thing.

That is the thrust of my argument in terms of putting forward this amendment. I want to protect the public and I want to protect the commission from not getting into employer-employee arguments when dealing with discipline procedures.

Mrs Sullivan: Once again, I want to underline our support for this amendment. We believe that the complaints review process which the ministry has put forward in the bill is inadequate in terms of notice and inadequate in terms of process in dealing with complaints with respect to the commission itself or the work of advocates.

Once again, I want to underline that the government amendments would include no process whereby complaints against the commission itself, on the basis of decisions that are made by the commission, can be placed. Further, if those complaints were placed, the commission itself and the chair of the commission would be the ultimate judge of whether those complaints are valid. It seems to me that this is an absolutely wrong approach to any complaints review process. We will be supporting this amendment, and I urge the government to do so as well.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this motion, and we believe our complaints processes have adequately addressed the concerns of complainants and in a fair manner. We have included in our amendments a written policy procedure and we've provided for an impartial tribunal to hear complaints as necessary and to also take out any frivolous complaints that might come forward.

I just want to respond to one point that was brought forward about complaints that might arise for the commission itself and all commissions that exist within the Ontario government. When there is a complaint against a commission, it is dealt with at the Ombudsman's level, and we feel that will happen with this particular commission as well.

Mr Sterling: I only want to say to the minister that I've recently received a letter from the parent of a child who is in a psychiatric institution. As you know, there are advocates within the psychiatric institutions. This parent tried to go to the Ombudsman to have the particular prob-

lem resolved. They were told that the Ombudsman would not become involved in the affair. There was no means to get at the conduct of the advocate within a psychiatric institution.

My concern is specifically that, that there are no means of redress outlined in this bill. The government continues to proceed with creating advocates. There are still question marks as to who these people are, ie, what training will be required etc. There are great regulating powers within this act. It's going to cost a lot of money. All we want to do is nail down this one area in terms of discipline. I cannot say any more, but I will predict this: that this part will be the downfall of this commission and will eventually lead to its destruction.

1550

The Chair: Any further questions or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chair, could I request that this vote be held for the stacked vote at the conclusion of the proceedings?

The Chair: We have to take a vote on each section. Shall section 16.1 carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mrs Sullivan: Division, please.

The Chair: Division? Deferred.

Now we will deal with subsection 17(1) and (1.1). That is a government motion.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 17(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Instructions

"(1) An advocate who is providing advocacy services to a person shall not do anything that is inconsistent with instructions or wishes that the person expressed, orally or in any other manner, while capable of instructing an advocate.

"Revocation of instructions

"(1.1) A person to whom advocacy services are provided and who is capable of instructing an advocate may revoke or revise his or her instructions."

The Chair: Any questions, any comments? Shall the amendment carry? Carried.

Shall section 17, as amended, carry? Carried.

Shall section 18 carry? Carried.

We will now deal with subsection 19(3).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 19(3) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Revocation of instructions

"(3) A person referred to in subsection (2) may revoke or revise instructions that he or she gave to an advocate."

The Chair: Are there any questions or comments? Shall subsection 19(3) carry? Carried.

Shall section 19, as amended, carry?

Interjections: Carried.

The Chair: We will now deal with section 19.1.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on the administration of justice, be amended by adding the following section:

"Appeal re status

"19.1 An advocate who determines that a person is a vulnerable person shall,

(a) advise the person that the advocate has made that determination and the reasons for the determination;

(b) advise the person that he or she may request the commission to review that determination in accordance with its review procedures;

(c) advise the person that he or she is entitled to consult a lawyer."

The Chair: Any questions? Any comments?

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment is proposed because a number of actions can kick in once an advocate has determined, on the basis of whatever criterion the advocate chooses to use, that a person is a vulnerable person. The advocate has rights of access to confidential records of a clinical or medical nature or other nature. It may be records relating to their involvement in vocational or educational activities in terms of dealing with people who provide the person's housing and other health care services.

The advocate would have the right to access, as I've said, the medical records in certain circumstances without the consent of the person, and the person himself or herself may well have other people who indeed provide the advocacy role that the person has himself or herself chosen.

There is no provision in the bill that would enable the person to be informed that a determination about that person has been made by an advocate, nor that the person could choose to correct the determination that that person is vulnerable. The definition of "vulnerability" is one which is fairly broad with respect to the ability of the person to express wishes or to determine and act on rights available to him or to her.

It's logical, it seems to me, that when the advocate has so much power in terms of actions surrounding a person who is determined to be vulnerable, the person himself or herself should be able to question that judgement. This would enable an appeal to be made to the commission through the regular commission review procedures—which, of course, we believe are faulty, but none the less it's the only thing that the government will allow—and the person can in fact let it be known that he or she does not believe that he or she is vulnerable.

The Chair: Any further questions or comments?

Mr Sterling: We will be supporting that amendment, Mr Chairman.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Respecting this motion, vulnerable persons will normally and generally call advocates for assistance or advocates will receive a third-party referral; therefore, making determinations would be an unnecessary labelling.

The Chair: Any further questions or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: This is part of the crux of the issue about when the advocate can move in. The minister is operating with the assumptions that advocates will come in

on a third-party referral or when called in specifically. In fact, there are provisions in the bill that would enable the advocate to move in without that kind of third-party referral or request. The advocate has the freedom, and indeed the power, to act on his or her own judgement with respect to another person.

The criterion for the judgement is not made available, and the minister is simply surmising that the advocate would only act on the circumstances that she has indicated. It's not true. Indeed, systemic advocacy would insist that the advocate act without request or without, in many cases, third-party referral. I think this kind of a protection to an individual is simply a matter of their personal right.

1600

The Chair: Any further questions or comments? Shall section 19.1 carry?

Interjection: No.

The Chair: All those in favour will please say "aye." All those opposed will please say "nay."

Mrs Sullivan: I request a division on that vote.

The Chair: The vote will be deferred. Subsection 20(2).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 20(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "shall, on request, present identification showing him or her" in the second and third lines and substituting "shall present to the person prescribed by the regulations made under this act identification showing the advocate."

The Chair: Any questions or comments?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I would like to comment that we are introducing this amendment after extensive consultation with the provider groups. This will provide a provision especially for advocates who will have to show identification when they're entering a facility, a controlled-access residence or a private premise to make sure that the person who is actually saying he or she is an advocate is truly an advocate and representing the commission.

Mrs Sullivan: I want to speak to this amendment and you'll forgive me if, in doing so, I have to speak to my own amendment which will immediately follow. We think this is an improvement on the previous drafting and indeed on the entire concept of the advocate being able to enter premises without being appropriately identified.

However, my view is that it still doesn't go far enough. I take you back to the situation at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital a couple of years ago, when a person wandered the corridors with the intent of molesting children who were resident in that hospital for treatment. The situation that the hospital was left in and the circumstance that the hospital was left in was that the hospital had to use the Trespass to Property Act to challenge the person's right to be there.

When family and friends enter a hospital, the practice, not a statutory practice but certainly the practice which is the policy of every hospital I know about, is that people are required to present themselves at the desk and identify themselves. The advocate, in any facility, is in a different

situation clearly than a family member or friend. The advocate is tending on many occasions to be entering that facility or that institution or that hospital to conduct an investigation, to seek facts that might not otherwise be available.

In terms of the protocols, I believe that it should be a statutory requirement that the advocate shall automatically present identification. I concur that in this case there should be a specified person within an institution to whom that identification should be presented. That's clearly part of the government amendment, but the identification should be presented so that any unfolding or untoward obstruction of the advocate is one that the person employed by the facility doesn't have to face latterly. I think the presentation of identification should be automatic.

The Chair: Any further questions? Mrs Churley, any further questions or comments? Shall subsection 20(2) carry? Carried.

We will now deal with an amendment brought by a Liberal motion, section 20(2)—

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chairman, I take it all back and I withdraw my amendment to subsection 20(2).

The Chair: Shall section 20 carry as amended? Carried.

I'd like to deal with the amendment by Mrs Sullivan, subsection 21(2).

Mrs Sullivan: I move that subsection 21(2) of the Bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by inserting the words "facility or" before "controlled-access" in line 1 and line 6.

The Chair: Any questions or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: This one there clearly is no confusion about. This is an amendment that we put in committee. It was an amendment that the third party also put in committee with respect to the right of access to premises or facilities by an advocate.

The government proposal is that the advocate may enter a controlled-access residence, and with that right of entry is allowed entry to the common quarters, the hallways, the public areas of the residence. That controlled-access residence could be an apartment building; it could be any place—it could be a boarding house—where there is a limitation on who can come in, at what times and where there are dwelling units within that building.

The amendment which is proposed limits the advocate's entry in a controlled-access residence to those public areas. However, it does not limit the advocate's entry to a facility, which is defined in the act, to those same common areas without the consent of the person involved.

Our view is that the advocate should have no more right of access in a nursing home which, under the Nursing Homes Act, I point out, is considered the home of the person who is resident there, or in the private room of a hospital, once again which has strictures surrounding it in the Public Hospitals Act than the advocate would be allowed in any other controlled-access residence.

As I've indicated, this amendment has been put forward vehemently on other occasions by both the opposition parties and we hope that the government will accept it. It's a serious one and we believe an important one.

Mr Sterling: We very strongly support this. We think the government, through this legislation, is perpetrating a grand invasion of privacy of many of our older citizens in this province.

We do not understand why an advocate has the right to enter the private nursing home room of an individual and we think this is an excessive power that is given to an advocate in those cases. We believe it's an invasion of privacy of many vulnerable people in our province which will not be viewed by them with a great deal of kindness and we think it's not necessary to do this in this legislation.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Mr Chair, we will not be accepting this motion. There are many vulnerable people in institutions who are unfortunately not able to leave their rooms, and this would prohibit an advocate being able to see them. However, if a vulnerable person does not want to see an advocate, the advocate is bound to leave under subsection 17(1), and we feel that this covers all the requirements of privacy.

1610

Mr Sterling: I would like to argue that they could be invited into the room by the vulnerable person. There's nothing to prevent that. They don't need to have any right of access in order to do that. I believe that under section 22 if the advocate believes there is a risk of harm to the vulnerable person, we would agree that perhaps under those circumstances he or she would have a right to go into the private room of an elderly person.

We just don't believe that an advocate should have the right to bust into the private room of an elderly or a vulnerable person, or a person who is not vulnerable. Sometimes these rooms are shared, as you know. You have two people in a room and perhaps there is consultation that goes on between those two as to who their visitors should be or should not be.

We don't believe an advocate needs this right. We think that the power is excessive and that the fewer powers we give to officials to go into, in effect, private residences, the better the laws of this province are. We view the privacy of individuals very strongly in our party and it's obvious that this kind of thought or kind of principle is not evident in the NDP government.

Mrs Sullivan: I think that in discussing this area we should look at what the powers of the advocate are in terms of access to any place where there are people. First of all, the advocate can enter a facility—maybe a hospital, a nursing home, a home for the aged or a controlled access residence, a group home, an apartment building—without a warrant any time it's necessary or any time the advocate believes is necessary. That could mean any time of the day or night. The bill says "any time that is reasonable in the circumstances.". We were told quite specifically in committee that "any time that is reasonable in the circumstances" could be 2 o'clock in the morning, 3 o'clock in the morning.

The provisions of these sections of the bill mean that the advocate could enter into a private hospital room, the private dwelling unit, the private room in a group home, the private room in a nursing home or in a home for the aged, without the consent of the person. The minister says that by ensuring that the advocate has only the right of entry to the common areas, the halls and the waiting room and so on, the advocate is prohibited from seeing the person.

Remember, it is the advocate who is making the decision that a vulnerable person is there in the first place, and the advocate is also making the decision that the vulnerable person wants to see him or her in his or her bedroom at any time of the day or night. This is not appropriate. My children are not allowed into my bedroom at all hours of the day or night. Why should a stranger be allowed into another person's bedroom at all hours or at any hour of the day or night, for whatever purpose, without the consent of the person whose room he's entering? It makes no sense in terms of our own rights to privacy and the protection of our own sense of dignity and justice.

I really believe the minister has total blinkers on with this section. The provisions with respect to the advocate's belief that harm is actually occurring to a person are provided for in the next section of the bill, but for an automatic entry, at any time under any circumstances, into any private place is not what the people of Ontario want.

The Chair: Any further questions or comments? Shall subsection 21(2) carry?

Interjection: No.

The Chair: All those in favour will please say "aye."
All those opposed will please say "nay."
In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mrs Sullivan: Mr Chairman, I feel very strongly that there should be a division on this section.

The Chair: Therefore, it will be deferred.

Mr Sterling: I feel very, very strongly on division on this.

The Chair: So do you withdraw your own—

Mr Sterling: I will waive that amendment because it is essentially the same amendment as put forward by my Liberal counterpart.

The Chair: We'll now deal with a government motion, subsections 22(2) and (3).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsections 22(2) and (3) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Entry to other premises

"(2) An advocate is entitled to enter premises, without a warrant and at any time that is reasonable in the circumstances, if the advocate has reasonable grounds to believe that there is a vulnerable person in the premises who wants or needs the services of an advocate; and,

"(a) the occupier of the premises does not refuse to allow the advocate to enter; or

"(b) the advocate has reasonable grounds to believe that there would be a substantial risk to the health or safety of the vulnerable person during the time that would be necessary to obtain a warrant under section 23."

The Chair: Any questions or comments?

Mr Sterling: I have a question: What if the advocate doesn't have reasonable grounds? What is the remedy that the vulnerable person seeks or gets?

Hon Ms Ziemba: First of all, within the act itself, a vulnerable person can say to the advocate, "We do not want to have you in our premises"—that's under subsection 17(1), I think—and the advocate would have to leave.

Mr Sterling: So if an advocate breaks into a family and causes significant disruption of its life, continues to break into a family residence, forces himself or herself into a situation—I mean, we've heard there aren't going to be any discipline procedures for these advocates because the commission is going to be protecting itself with regard to all of these matters. How do you protect the public?

This is an invasion of privacy. You're giving an advocate the right to go into somebody's private residence. You're telling me he has to have reasonable grounds, but if he doesn't have reasonable grounds, there's no remedy. What's the remedy? Does the advocate get fired if he does it twice or three times? You're giving rights to people to enter private residences. You have to balance that off with giving the citizen significant powers as well. You say all that happens is that the advocate leaves. What if he doesn't leave when he's asked to leave? What if that's the contention of the people in the place?

Hon Ms Ziemba: It very clearly says "the occupier of the premises does not refuse to allow the advocate to enter." I think that's very clear. If the occupying person in that premise says, "Please leave," or does not give permission to enter, the advocate will not be entering. They are not breaking in, they are entering; a difference of opinion.

The Chair: Any further comments?

Mrs Sullivan: I'd like to make it very clear what premises are. "Premises" means a private home. "Premises" can mean a place of schooling. "Premises" can mean a workplace. "Premises" can mean a place where recreational activities are taking place that the person is involved in.

But primarily the concern is with respect to the advocate's unwarranted and unrequested entry into a private home, once again, at any time of the day or night. This section would give an advocate the right to enter, any time of the day or night, any of those places I've mentioned. They could show up at a person's workplace. They could show up at the place where they're receiving training, where they're receiving other services. "Premises" is an all-encompassing word that refers to many areas.

Again, the fundamental and prime concern is with respect to the advocate's right to enter a private home. The occupier of the premises is not defined. Is the occupier the vulnerable person himself? Under this act it's only the vulnerable person who must consent. The occupier of the premises is provided with no recourse in not allowing the advocate to enter. The reasonable grounds that there is substantial risk to the person, in my view aren't adequately addressed in other parts of the bill with an incumbency on the advocate to inform appropriate authorities about that risk.

1620

Mr Sterling: I'd like to clarify. I hope the minister has read this legislation, because her comment in response to my concern over the invasion of privacy with regard to individuals makes no sense at all. She read the government motion. The advocate can go into the premises without permission under clause 22(2)(b) of her own amendment. She led us to believe in this Legislature that the advocate wouldn't go in. What I want to know is, what is the remedy for the vulnerable person if in fact this advocate busts into the home as he or she is entitled to under clause 22(2)(b)?

When we give away these rights for people to enter private homes without a warrant, then you are going to see members of my party stand up and ask, what are the remedies when this power has been abused? We've seen that the minister has resisted a disciplinary process being set out in this act and wants to give that over to the commission. I want to know, how is she going to protect those vulnerable people from the intrusion of privacy by her advocates?

Hon Ms Ziemba: As we discussed earlier, there is a complaints process, and this has been established, and the commission will be made up of representatives of persons with disabilities but also by the general public as well, by appointments. We believe this will ensure proper and adequate behaviour by advocates and by anybody who is related to the commission itself.

Mr Sterling: I can only say this: If we are setting up a brand-new set of individuals across this province who are going to have significant powers, if we do not pay attention to the control of those powers and give the public at large some remedies with regard to the abuse of those powers, we are looking to the excuses that will start to flow out of this commission and what these advocates do, which will lead, as I said before, I think to the eventual destruction of the commission as a whole.

I hate to talk like that when we're going into something. I don't understand the reluctance of this minister to try to control what these advocates can or cannot do. I agree you must give them some powers in order to do what is the intent of the act, but surely the people who are going to be sitting on the commission do not want a situation which is going to get out of control or has the potential for getting out of control.

That's what is going to happen here. We don't know who these advocates are. We don't know what kind of training. We don't know what kind of framework is going to be put around them. Many people out there, particularly those people who are pro-life people, are very concerned about what these advocates are going to espouse with regard to that issue. How are they going to express their disapproval when an advocate advises a young person other than the way they would wish them to advise them?

We are seeing the creation of a commission which is going to be expensive and uncontrollable, and the minister continues to protect that commission to an excessive degree.

The Chair: Any further comments? Shall the amendment to subsections 22(2) and (3) carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it, and I declare the motion carried.

Mrs Sullivan: Could that vote go to division?

The Chair: We'll now deal with one of your amendments, Mr Sterling, subsection 22(3.1), if you want to move it.

Mr Sterling: I move that section 22 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection after subsection 22(3):

"Entry to private dwellings

"(3.1) Despite subsections (2) and (3), an advocate is not entitled to enter a private dwelling without a warrant for entry."

The Chair: Any questions or comments?

Mr Sterling: I would not have introduced this amendment if the minister had accepted some kind of jurisdiction over the disciplinary process with regard to advocates. I would not have introduced this amendment if the prior amendment the minister introduced had some kind of remedy for the vulnerable citizen who has had his privacy invaded by an advocate.

I am only introducing this amendment because there are inadequate safeguards to deal with advocates who might step out of line and, number two, because there is no remedy either for the vulnerable person or the family when an advocate invades the privacy in a private dwelling in this province.

As I said before, we do not give lightly to anyone in this province the right to enter a private residence. Police do not have the right to enter a private residence without a warrant. We are not in agreement with allowing an advocate, who is not a police officer, the right to enter a private dwelling without a warrant, in light of the inadequate measures by this government to control or to have a disciplinary process in place to control the activities of advocates in this province.

Mrs Sullivan: We'll be supporting this amendment, and we have an amendment which is identical. I think enough has been said. It's very clear where we stand.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this amendment. We feel that we have amended our sections in a way that addresses the needs and rights of vulnerable persons and occupiers of private dwellings. As well, we have a great deal of support from the various provider groups that have read our amendments and feel very comfortable with them.

Just to add to that, I would like to remind the members opposite that under the Child and Family Services Act child protection workers also have a right to enter private dwellings without a warrant.

Mrs Sullivan: The minister rightly points out the rights of the child worker, who also is authorized to take other actions of a very different nature than those which an advocate is authorized to take. I suggest to you that if the minister wants to reference another act, she should also

have a look at the Nursing Homes Act and the powers of the inspector with respect to entering the specific room or residential portion of that space of a resident.

Mr Sterling: I would assume that a child care worker who exercised this right of entry would be essentially responsible, through this Legislature, through her minister or his minister, with regard to that entry. Children's aid societies are legally responsible for that particular matter. Children's aid societies are very much more in the control of the Minister of Community and Social Services than this commission. This commission is deliberately being set out and apart and away from the minister.

She has said that. The government has purposely done that. We accept that. Therefore you require, in my view, many more controls over the activities of the people who are being given special rights under that arm's-length commission. That is why there is a very significant difference in the examples which she's drawing and the commission which we are trying to set up here today.

It continues to worry me that the minister doesn't understand the structure. She was not involved in the committee hearings. She did not hear the concerns of the parents and the groups that have to deal with these advocates in the future. Again, we continue to express concerns over that issue.

1630

The Chair: Any further questions or comments?
Shall the amendment to subsection 22(3.1) carry?

Interjection: No.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

I declare the motion lost.

Mr Sterling: I'd like a division on that.

The Chair: On the last one I just—

Mr Sterling: Yes.

The Chair: Okay. Therefore, it shall be deferred.

Mrs Sullivan: The next amendment I wish to put was to subsection 22(6). Although it appears in a different place, it is the identical amendment proposed by the opposition, which we just dealt with, and it's withdrawn.

The Chair: We'll now deal with a government motion. I believe it's clause 23(1)(a).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that clause 23(1)(a) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that a vulnerable person in the premises wants or needs the services of an advocate."

The Chair: Questions or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: I just wonder if the minister would clarify the addition of two words, "or needs," to what is already before us in the bill.

Hon Ms Ziemba: This is for non-instructed advocacy.

Mrs Sullivan: That's not enough of an explanation.

Hon Ms Ziemba: There will be times that a vulnerable person is at risk, and this also explains "or needs."

Also, there are times when a vulnerable person is unable and incapable of instructing an advocate, but there are situations that show that the vulnerable person is in danger of risk of health or in danger of his or her life and is being abused, and this will clarify that.

Mrs Sullivan: Would the minister explain how the new clause (a) amendment which is being put forward interrelates with clause (b) of either the reprinted bill or the proposed amendment? Surely, the need comes from clause (b), or there would be no other reason for the advocate to be there.

Hon Ms Ziemba: It could go under either, and it does clarify the right of an advocate to obtain a warrant for entry.

Mr Sterling: I support the amendment. I think the difference between (a) and (b), quite frankly, is that under (b) it would be required proof that there is a risk, and clause (a) gives the judge or the justice of the peace the power to give one if you could present evidence that several people have talked about the fact that there is a person there, and therefore I think the standard of proof would be less. But I think it's needed. Again, I have no objection when a warrant's been obtained and there's a hearing in front of a justice of the peace, even though it's ex parte, but I think the amendment is supportable.

The Chair: Questions or comments?

Shall clause 23(1)(a) Carried.

We will now deal with another government motion. Do you want to move it?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 23(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by (a) adding "there are reasonable grounds to believe that" at the beginning of clause (b), and (b) adding "there are reasonable grounds to believe that" at the beginning of clause (d).

The Chair: Questions or comments? Shall the motion carry? Carried.

We will now deal with the motion by Mrs Sullivan, subsections 23(6) to (8).

Mrs Sullivan: Considering the votes that have been taken, I believe this motion is now redundant. I'll withdraw it.

The Chair: Shall section 23, as amended, carry? Carried.

We'll now deal with another motion by Mrs Sullivan.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that subsection 24 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"Capacity to consent to access

"(2.1) A vulnerable person is capable of consenting to access to records if the person understands

"(a) the purpose for which the advocate seeks consent for access to the person's records; and

"(b) the reasonably foreseeable consequences of giving or refusing to give his or her consent."

The Chair: Any questions or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment is proposed to clarify the capability of a person who is determined by the advocate to be vulnerable, and the judgement or the gauge around which that person shall be determined to be capable of consenting to access to what are very private clinical, medical and other records.

We know from the definition of a vulnerable person in the bill that vulnerable persons may have difficulty in expressing themselves, in accessing their own rights. That may not mean, however, that the vulnerable person is incapable in terms of mental capacity of understanding issues. The difficulty may be in resolving issues that affect them on a day-to-day basis.

While there was a fight of long standing for individuals to have access to their own clinical and medical records, which at one time were seen to be the property of the physician or the practitioner in charge, that attitude has changed. It seems to me that a person, although vulnerable, should also be accepted as being capable of providing that consent, and there should be a gauge included in the bill that would describe what that capability is.

We've determined that our recommendation is that the test of capacity should be that the person understands why the advocate wants access to the records and what would happen if the advocate had access to the records or did not have access to the records. We feel that those tests are not too high a test, and that we should not underestimate that a person, while being vulnerable, may also be capable.

1640

The Chair: Any further questions? Any comments? Shall the amendment to subsection 24(2.1) carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

We'll now deal with a government motion.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 24(3) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out.

The Chair: Any questions? Any comments?

Mr Sterling: Can I ask why you're striking this out?

Hon Ms Ziemba: This amendment, together with the motions to amend section 24(6) and to add section 29.1, moves the subsection to a more appropriate place in the bill, and it clarifies the enforcement provisions available to an advocate who is seeking to obtain the names, addresses and telephone numbers of family or friends of an incapable vulnerable person. So this is really put in the proper place that it should be.

The Chair: Any further questions? Any further comments?

Shall the amendment to subsection 24(3) carry? Carried.

We have another government motion.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 24(6) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "subsections (2), (3), (4)

and (5)" in the first and second lines and substituting "subsections (2), (4) and (5)."

The Chair: Are there any questions? Any comments? Shall the amendment to subsection 24(6) carry? Carried.

We have another government motion.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 24(7) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out.

The Chair: Any questions? Any comments?

Mr Sterling: Can I ask why?

Hon Ms Ziemba: Yes. The client is now entitled to full access to his or her own file, as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. The effect of this amendment is to allow advocates, as agents, to have access to all of the information on a client's chart, including third-party identifiers, subject to appropriate duties of confidentiality. The required related confidentiality and disclosure provisions are dealt with later in the motions to amend sections 31, 33, 34 and 38(1).

Mr Sterling: Does this have anything to do with systemic advocacy?

Hon Ms Ziemba: No. This is actually to deal with the vulnerable person giving instruction to have information related to his own files. Again, a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision has come down to warrant that.

The Chair: Any further questions?

Mrs Sullivan: Perhaps the minister would like to go over that again, because in fact this subsection which is being removed is one which would require the striking out from a record of names or other identifiers about a person other than the vulnerable person.

My understanding is that the minister may well have covered that in a different amendment to the act; however, the difficulty was with institutions which didn't want to strike out other names from a cost point of view, and that was the only reason that they didn't want to do it. I'd like to have a little more discussion from the minister on this.

Hon Ms Ziemba: The health care providers and the access to records in hospitals have fully understood that there will be clear instructions and that only certain advocates will be given this particular information under strict confidentiality. This will give more access and will be more helpful both to the hospitals which are providing this information and also to the advocates who need to have this information.

Mr Sterling: I'm going to vote against this, and I'll tell you why: because we're talking about other people. We're not talking about the vulnerable person, we're not talking about the advocate; we're talking about personal identifiers of third parties or third persons whose names appear in some record. I don't buy the fiscal argument, if you want to put it that way, of the hospitals. I think if that happens, then we'll have to find some method of dealing with that.

If this government has such secrecy with regard to personal information, which I think is right and proper, then I don't understand why, if a person gives information about a vulnerable person to a doctor or to another health care

provider and that name happens to be in the file, even if it happens to be given in confidence with regard to that health care provider, that third party should be vulnerable to an advocate who may or may not divulge the name of that third party to his client, the vulnerable person, and may do irreparable damage with regard to relationships, family relationships in particular, where family members have tried to help with a vulnerable person, have given history with regard to that person, and that particular remark has been put in the file.

I don't understand why an advocate should be privy to the person's name if in fact the major argument is an expense argument. That may sound strange coming from a Conservative, but the fact of the matter is that I view the personal confidentiality of people as being more important than that, in this case. Therefore, we will oppose this particular amendment by the minister to withdraw this protection for personal privacy from the act.

Mrs Sullivan: When I was reviewing the amendments that were proposed by the minister, I was surprised to see this amendment coming forward. I believe it's there because it was the price of reaching an agreement with health care institutions. I know how difficult it is to erase all personal identifiers other than those relating to the individual. We have certainly seen the difficulty of doing that and the time associated with doing that as the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act has been implemented with respect to government.

In this case, the records are perhaps of even more individual sensitivity, or at least equally of individual sensitivity, in that they relate to clinical and medical matters. By example, if there is a procedure that is part of a research process—I'm thinking only of a hospital, in this case—each person who was involved in that process of research may well be identified and the outcomes of that research project made available. It depends on the record. In this case, people other than the vulnerable person will be identified and that identification will stay fully documented with the advocate, despite all the provisions of secrecy.

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The original intention was that the identifier should be removed, certainly all the issues surrounding the information, whether it relates to procedures or specifics of treatment or specifics of an incidence report. Is the minister satisfied that the provisions that were originally included in this bill—and I believe this is a substantial enough policy change that in fact it means a significant part of the bill has been reversed—is she satisfied that this is really an appropriate way to go, or was this the cost of the deal?

Hon Ms Ziembra: If I may respond, I would like to clarify just one more time. There was a recent Supreme Court decision, and that decision said that an individual has the right of access to his particular records. An advocate, as we know, is an agent, not a person who's acting out of that context, and as an agent for the vulnerable person should have the same rights as an individual.

Mr Sterling: I don't believe that Supreme Court decision considered the issue of confidentiality of third parties. Therefore, I think the argument is not valid and I think the

argument is being put forward under the guise of a Supreme Court decision in order to justify a political deal drawn between health care providers and this ministry. The deal is that hospitals and health care providers don't want to take the time to erase these names. I say, tough on the health care providers. The protection of individual privacy is more important than the inconvenience to them of erasing these names.

Mrs Sullivan: The decision to which the minister refers relates to access to one's own record, from which personal identifiers of other people would be removed.

The First Deputy Chair (Mr Dennis Drainville): Any further discussion, comments? If not, then Mrs Ziembra has moved an amendment that subsection 24(7) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: Is this amendment in order?

The First Deputy Chair: The answer at this point is yes, you can delete a subsection. Shall the amendment as moved by Mrs Ziembra carry?

All those in favour of the amendment carrying, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Mr Sterling: We would like to divide on that.

The First Deputy Chair: We defer this vote.

We are now moving to a Liberal amendment to section 24.1.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following section:

"Request for access to records:

"24.1(1) An advocate who wishes access to records under sections 24, 25 or 26 shall make a written request to the operator of the facility, controlled-access residence or program prescribed by the regulations made under this act, as the case may be.

"Application to withhold records:

"(2) The operator may apply to the Consent and Capacity Review Board for permission to withhold all or part of the records sought by the advocate, and shall give written notice of the application to the advocate.

"Determination by the board

"(3) Within seven days after receiving the application, the board shall direct the operator to give the advocate access to the records or to such portion of the records as the board specifies, or may grant the operator permission to withhold all or part of the records sought by the advocate.

"Stay pending direction

"(4) The advocate is not entitled to access to the records to which the application relates until the board gives a direction under subsection (3)."

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has moved—

Mrs Sullivan: Dispense.

The First Deputy Chair: Dispense. Any comments?

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment is put forward so that the facility or the program has reasonable recourse to a review of the request for access to records by a board which has the ability and the knowledge to deal with the information which is contained in those records.

We know that the Consent and Capacity Review Board, under the Consent to Treatment Act, will in fact be dealing with situations where access to records or discussion of records may be seen to be problematic for the person involved if the person involved learns of the content of those records. We feel that a similar approach and a similar protection for the vulnerable person should be available under this act, and this amendment proposes the Consent and Capacity Review Board as the review operation because of the technical content of the medical and clinical records to which, in many cases, the access will be requested.

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any other questions or comments to be made on this motion?

Hon Ms Ziemba: We will not be accepting this motion. We believe that our provisions which require an advocate to apply to a justice of the peace to access records when they have been withheld by a facility are adequate to review disputes, as there is always available to either party judicial review of the justice of the peace's decision.

The First Deputy Chair: Questions and/or comments? If there are none, Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to section 24.1. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. The motion is lost.

I will call on Mrs Ziemba.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 25 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Access to records, systemic policies and practices

"(1) An advocate designated under subsection (3) is entitled to have access to records described in subsection (2) if the commission authorizes access on the ground that the commission is satisfied that,

"(a) there are reasonable grounds to suspect the existence of systemic policies or practices that may be detrimental to vulnerable persons; and

"(b) access to the records is necessary for the purpose of an investigation into the existence of the systemic policies or practices.

"Types of records

"(2) The records referred to in subsection (1) are records that are in the custody or control of,

"(a) a facility;

"(b) a person who operates a controlled-access residence; or

"(c) a person who operates a program prescribed by the regulations made under this act.

"Designation

"(3) The commission may designate an advocate for the purpose of this section if the advocate has received

training that, in the opinion of the commission, is appropriate for advocates acting under this section.

"Acting for commission

"(4) Subsection (1) does not apply unless the advocate is acting on behalf of the commission and is paid by the commission for that purpose.

"Restriction

"(5) Subsection (1) does not apply to an advocate who, in the previous twelve months, has provided advocacy services under clause 7(1)(b) to a vulnerable person who, at the time the services were provided, was in the facility or controlled-access residence or was served by the program, as the case may be.

"Opportunity to make submissions

"(6) The commission shall not authorize access under subsection (1) unless the commission has given the person with custody or control of the records an opportunity to make written submissions to the commission.

"Other acts

"(7) This section prevails over any other act."

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The First Deputy Chair: Are there any questions and/or comments on the amendments moved by Mrs Ziemba?

Mrs Sullivan: We believe this particular amendment is a significant improvement.

We'd like to know some of the training processes. I do have some concerns about subsection (5). My concerns relate to a similar issue that occurred with the mental health appeals board. The question is whether in fact there will be adequate numbers of advocates who will be available and who will not have been providing services in the facility, the residence or in the program as this process is implemented.

The minister has indicated that there will be some 150 advocates across the province. Frankly, if only a small portion of those are trained in the process for access to records, the provincial circumstances will be difficult. The second rejoinder on them is that they cannot have participated in providing advocacy services to the person who was in the facility or controlled-access residence at the time. So it looks good, but I suspect that it's not going to work. Perhaps the minister could comment.

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any comments by the honourable member from the third party?

Mr Sterling: Yes, just briefly, we're not going to support this amendment. In talking with Ministry of Citizenship officials, it's my great concern that this will offer the legal profession an opportunity to go on fishing experiments with regard to various different health care institutions via an advocate posing for a vulnerable person, which according to the definitions of this act, includes almost anybody in this province. So there are some really great dangers involved in this section.

I don't like any section which ends by saying, "This section prevails over any other act." That means over all the protections that we are given with regard to rights etc in other legislation.

Therefore, I oppose it on those two grounds.

Hon Ms Ziemba: We feel that this amendment is very essential, especially for systemic advocacy, but I also want to say that the changes we have made have the full support of all the affected people, whether they are groups that provide services or whether they are people who are representing people with vulnerabilities.

We've also heard some very compelling arguments that have been put forward to us about the protection of privacy in smaller communities, especially if you have a very, very small community where an advocate has been working for the last 12 months and would have had access to information and lives in that particular community. Having discussed the third-party identifiers in the previous sections, we feel that this is one way of making sure that third parties are protected and that privacy is there for those particular people in smaller communities in Ontario.

The First Deputy Chair: Any further comments and/or questions?

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjection: No.

The First Deputy Chair: All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

Those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. I declare the motion carried.

Shall section 25, as amended, carry? Carried.

Mrs Ziemba, section 26.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 26 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Access to policy and procedure records

"26(1) An advocate is entitled to have access, for the purpose of providing advocacy services under this act, to records described in subsection (2) that establish or describe policies or procedures for the observation, care, treatment or management of persons to whom services are provided, including orders, directives, rules, guidelines, protocols, policy or procedural manuals, reports, memoranda or other records that establish or describe such policies or procedures.

"Types of records

"(2) The records referred to in subsection (1) are records that are in the custody or control of,

"(a) a facility;

"(b) a person who operates a controlled-access residence; or

"(c) a person who operates a program prescribed by the regulations made under this Act.

"Other Acts

(3) This section prevails over any other act."

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments? If there are no questions and no comments, let me put the question:

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mrs Sullivan: The amendments I was putting forward to 26(2)(c) and (d) and 26(4), as a result of other amendments proposed by the government, are redundant and I will withdraw them.

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan withdraws her amendments on section 26, and 26(4). Both of those? Yes.

Shall section 26, as amended, carry? Carried.

I call on Mrs Ziemba on section 27.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that subsection 27(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "sections 24 and 25" in the first line, and substituting "sections 24 to 26."

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any questions and/or comments on this? If there are none, let me move the question.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

I recognize Mrs Sullivan on subsection 27(1).

Mrs Sullivan: My amendment to subsection 27(1), in different words, is identical to the government's and I withdraw it.

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Ziemba on subsection 27(2).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that the French version of subsection 27(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "devait" in the third line, "avoir pour effet probable d'".

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments?

Mr Sterling: Could I have from the minister a translation, please?

Hon Ms Ziemba: I'm getting coached.

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any other questions or comments? If not, I'll put the question. Carried.

Mrs Ziemba on subsections 27(3) and 27(4).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 27 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsections after subsection 27(2):

"Exception, personnel records, quality review etc.

"(3) An advocate is not entitled to have access to a personnel record or to a record or part of a record dealing with,

"(a) quality review activities;

"(b) peer review or performance review activities; or

"(c) quality improvement activities.

"Exception, college of health profession

"(4) An advocate is not entitled to have access to a record or part of a record that is in the custody or control of a college as defined in the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991."

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments? If there are none, then I will move the question. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Shall section 27, as amended, carry? Carried.

Mrs Sullivan on section 28.

Mrs Sullivan: I move that paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of section 28 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out.

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments? There being none, I will put the question. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjection: No.

The First Deputy Chair: All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed to the motion will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

I declare the motion lost.

Mrs Ziemba on amendments to section 28, paragraphs 8 and 9.

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 28 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following paragraphs:

"8. If the advocate is entitled to access to the record under section 25 and the record contains the name of or any means of identifying an individual, the record shall not be removed and the person who has custody or control of the record shall ensure that the name of and the means of identifying the individual are deleted from copies of extracts of the record that are removed by the advocate.

"9. The commission shall pay the reasonable costs incurred under paragraph 8 by the person who has custody or control of the record."

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any questions and/or comments on Mrs Ziemba's amendments? Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments carry? Carried.

Mrs Ziemba on subsection 28(2).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that section 28 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"Protection from liability

"(2) A person who has custody or control of a record is not liable for any loss arising from the person's failure to comply with paragraph 8 of subsection (1) if the person attempted in good faith to comply with that paragraph."

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any questions and/or comments on this motion? If there are not, then I would ask the question. Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendments carry? Carried.

Shall section 28, as amended, carry? Carried.

I would call on Mrs Sullivan for the amendment to clause 29(1)(b).

Mrs Sullivan: The concerns that we had in putting forward this amendment have been addressed in a government amendment a couple back, which carried. I withdraw this amendment.

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has said that the Liberal amendment to clause 29(1)(b) be withdrawn. Also an amendment now, Mrs Sullivan, on clause 29(1)(c).

Mrs Sullivan: This amendment related to a previous amendment which I put, which was defeated, therefore I withdraw this one.

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has withdrawn the amendment on clause 29(1)(c).

I would call now on Ms Ziemba on clause 29(2)(a).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following section after section 29:

"Access to names, addresses etc

"29.1(1) If an advocate has reasonable grounds to believe that a vulnerable person is incapable of instructing an advocate, the advocate is entitled, for the purpose of disclosing information under subsection 31(8), to be informed by a person who has custody or control—

The First Deputy Chair: If I could ask you to hold on, I think we're not on the same motion at this point.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Okay. That's the next one I have in my—

The First Deputy Chair: There's a government motion on clause 29(2)(a).

Hon Ms Ziemba: Sorry, Mr Chair.

I move that clause 29(2)(a) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "subject to subsections 24(7), 25(3) and 26(3)" in the fourth and fifth lines.

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions or comments? Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

I call on Ms Ziemba regarding clause 29(2)(b).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that clause 29(2)(b) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "record" in the third line "subject to paragraphs 8 and 9 of subsection 28(1)."

The First Deputy Chair: Are there any questions and/or comments? Is the member for Carleton coming in on this particular clause? No? Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

I call on Ms Ziemba for the amendment to clause 29(2)(c).

Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that clause 29(2)(c) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "paragraphs 6 and 7 of section 28" in the first and second lines and substituting "paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of subsection 28(1)."

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments? If there be none, then I would ask the House, is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

I now call on Mrs Sullivan regarding the amendment to clause 29(2)(c).

Mrs Sullivan: Due to previous changes, this motion is now redundant and I withdraw it.

The First Deputy Chair: Mrs Sullivan has withdrawn the amendment to clause 29(2)(c).

Shall section 29, as amended, carry? Carried.

I will now call on Ms Ziemba for section 29.1.

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Hon Ms Ziemba: I move that the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following section after section 29:

"Access to names, addresses etc

"29.1(1) If an advocate has reasonable grounds to believe that a vulnerable person is incapable of instructing an

advocate, the advocate is entitled, for the purpose of disclosing information under subsection 31(8), to be informed by a person who has custody or control of records described in subsection (2) of any information contained in the records with respect to the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to whom information may be disclosed under subsection 31(8).

"Records

"(2) The records referred to in subsection (1) are records that are in the custody or control of,

"(a) a facility;

"(b) a person who operates a controlled-access residence; or

"(c) a person who operates a program prescribed by the regulations made under this act.

"Warrant for access to record

"(3) A justice of the peace may issue a warrant to an advocate for access to the part of a record that contains information with respect to the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to whom information may be disclosed under subsection 31(8) if the justice of the peace is satisfied that,

"(a) the record contains information that the advocate is entitled to be informed of under subsection (1); and

"(b) the advocate has requested the information but has not been informed of the information.

"Authority conferred by warrant

"(4) The warrant authorizes the advocate to,

"(a) inspect the part of the record specified in the warrant that contains information with respect to the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to whom information may be disclosed under subsection 31(8), between 9 am and 4 pm, or during the hours specified in the warrant; and

"(b) make extracts from the record, in any manner that does not damage the record, of names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to whom information may be disclosed under subsection 31(8).

"Duration of warrant

"(5) The warrant is valid for seven days.

"Execution

"(6) The advocate named in the warrant may call on a police officer for assistance in executing it."

The First Deputy Chair: Any questions and/or comments? If not, I'll put the question.

Mrs Sullivan: I'd just like to say, and I think for all of the colleagues here, that this is an extremely important section of the bill. We are probably halfway through this particular bill. We have three other bills that will not be addressed in this time. The discussion on this particular section and other sections should in fact garner the attention of this place for a good 20 minutes of discussion, if not even a lengthier time.

We are constrained by House rules that, in my view, are outrageous and are a real detriment to people who will be served and will have to work with these bills. We know why these rules are there, but there are problems here, and I suggest that the people who will be most concerned about this section are people who have AIDS.

The First Deputy Chair: Any further comments or questions?

Mr Sterling: As we're approaching 5:30—it's about 5:23 now—I'm going to ask you, Mr Chairman, to rule on whether or not the time allocation motion is any longer in order. Some time ago, when we all agreed to this time allocation motion, it was our understanding that the government had its act together at that time. We agreed to it because we required more public hearings last summer.

A lot of things have happened since then, Mr Chairman. As you may recall, at the beginning of those hearings there were 199 government amendments and I believe there were over 60 amendments to Bill 74, and that was the reason we called for these public hearings and agreed to this time allocation motion. During the committee hearings subsequent to that, there were 41 amendments to the bill. On Friday last, or Thursday last—some time late last week—we were delivered 46 additional amendments to the bill. We're talking about Bill 74, the one we're dealing with.

These amendments are not inconsequential. Some of the amendments, like the one we're talking about now, are a page and a half in length.

The question that comes to me is that the bill only has 41 sections, yet after the first reading we had over 60 amendments. After the committee heard it we had 41 amendments, the same number of sections of the bill. Coming into committee of the whole House, when our time has been constrained, we had 46 amendments. Quite frankly, I think the government is foolish in holding us to this particular time allocation motion.

Notwithstanding their desire to get it through whether it be perfect or imperfect, the question starts to become whether or not we're dealing with the same matter that we started with when this time allocation motion was made. When this time allocation motion was made back in June of last year, there were some 86 or 87 different sections we were dealing with at that time on which that time allocation motion was agreed to by this House. We start to get into a situation where I have some fear that this Legislature has not had proper scrutiny of this bill. The amendments brought forward today by the minister were first given to me and other members of the opposition late last week. We haven't had an opportunity to go back to the many groups who came in front of that committee to consult with them.

As I also mentioned before, we in the opposition have tried to be as responsible as we can with regard to this legislation. It's not my desire to block this thing or withhold it, but surely members of this Legislature must have some rights with regard to notice when major amendments are being made.

Quite frankly, notwithstanding having some major concerns over the whole idea of the advocacy legislation, one begins to wonder, when at the 11th hour there are 46 amendments to a bill which only has 41 sections. When we've gone through this process, those people who have been watching this process may have understood that these amendments were not a change of a word in a section or whatever. They are wholesale changes with regard to what the committee did in this Legislature.

I guess you can rule, Mr Chairman, that the time allocation motion is everything, and that therefore it ends the debate, it's all over and we will have our vote. I would have hoped there were some protections for the people of Ontario and members of this Legislature, that when we get to the final strokes with regard to this bill, what has happened would not have happened; in other words, at the very last moment the government decides to change the legislation holus-bolus and all of the consultation we had before is in some ways for naught.

Therefore, I would ask you, Mr Chairman, to rule at this point that a time allocation motion is out of order and that the government House leader come to this Legislature with a more reasonable timetable so that members of the Legislature and members of the public can have a reasonable time to consider the 46 amendments to a bill with only 41 sections.

1730

The First Deputy Chair: I thank the honourable gentleman from Carleton. I would say two things. The first is that it is not up to the Speaker, who is the servant of the House, to in any way dictate what the House does. We have to deal here with the decisions that have been made by this body. On May 28, this time allocation motion was put and was voted on by the House. It could have been amended; it was not at that time.

We have here this particular order, which tells us precisely the parameters we are to exercise this committee under today. Therefore, your view that the time allocation motion is out of order is not acceptable to the Chair at this point in time. It has now come to 5:30, so we need to move on to the actual deferred votes on this.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of privilege, Mr Chairman: I want to suggest to you that my privileges as a member and indeed the privileges of other members of the Legislature have been abrogated, not only by the actions of the government with respect to the preparation and dealing with these bills, but indeed by the motion of the House itself in terms of putting on time allocation.

The members of this chamber and I myself are unable to discuss in an appropriate way bills that will effect new laws that will affect every person in this province, and people from around the province will have no full knowledge of what shape those new laws will take.

On May 28, when the House made its motion, the motion was made and the agreement was only reached under duress on this side of the House. The tit for the government tat was that there would be public hearings after the presentation of a significant number of amendments that the government put forward in response to the first round of public hearings. There was no way those public hearings could have taken place without that agreement.

My view is that that motion of the House on May 28 is a breach of my privileges as a member and of every other member of this chamber.

The First Deputy Chair: I want to thank the honourable member for Halton Centre and just indicate very clearly again that the role of the Chair of the committee of the whole House or even of the Speaker is that of servant

of the House. The House has decided by the decision on May 28 that we would move this afternoon at around this time to the deferred votes and deal with this issue in this way. That has been the House's directive to myself, who now sits in this chair. Nothing is out of order and I do not believe at this point in time that there is any question of privilege either, which has been implied by the honourable member.

I recognize the honourable leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I'll be quite brief. I intend to ask for unanimous consent and I'd like a brief opportunity to explain why.

I met yesterday with the executive committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. They are supporters of proceeding with this legislation. This is not a partisan piece of legislation. This is not one where we're talking about spending billions of dollars in government-owned or run versus the private sector, or balancing budgets or other devastating things that are happening in our province. This is something we're all concerned about. We're concerned about advocacy for those vulnerable in our society.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons, as you know, was one of the groups that could not be coerced into signing off on this particular piece of legislation. Other groups were coerced into signing off on this legislation, something that has never happened in the history of this province before, where a government pressures those to sign off, trading one thing for the other, when what we're interested in here is sound, good public policy to benefit those vulnerable in our society.

I would ask the two ministers involved, on behalf of the government, to consider the flurry of amendments that have come forward from the civil service, the flurry of amendments that have come forward from others, how we have been boondoggled before—just the fact that there needed to be more amendments than there are sections to this particular piece of legislation—and to think about sound policy and legislation. This is not a partisan request I'm asking.

I'm asking, I would think, for their own benefit, two ministers here today who understand how absolutely difficult it is to get legislative time if we have to go back and fix something next year after the fact. It is next to impossible to get on this legislative calendar with all the requests of the various ministries and the priorities of the government.

Mr Chair, I understand your hands are tied by the time allocation motion. On the other hand, if there is goodwill among all parties in the Legislature, I would ask, on the benefit of what I heard yesterday when expert people—I said, "Do you understand what the amendments will do?" He said: "No, we don't. They come at us fast and furious. We don't have time to look at it. When we did have time and we gave opinion, there were 60 more amendments." They recognized there were 60, then there were 40 more amendments."

I truly ask the two ministers to consider having their caucus and party give unanimous consent to give us some more time to understand the implications of all these

amendments so they themselves can understand and hear from the various interest groups, to let them off, if you like, the forced sign-off they forced them into to shut them up, to let them out of that and let the interest groups come forward. Let the OMA, let the Ontario Hospital Association, let the College of Physicians and Surgeons now offer their opinion. Let the other groups that are involved and the health professions offer their opinion now on all these amendments that have just come forward.

I believe that would be sound public policy. I believe that would be a non-partisan way to proceed, where the Legislature and this committee of the Legislature are truly striving here to have the best piece of legislation possible, particularly for those most vulnerable in our society.

I would make that plea to the two ministers—if they will agree, the rest will follow in their caucus—and ask for unanimous consent to give more time for those groups and for others to take a look at what these amendments mean so we can be sure, hopefully still before this Christmas, we

finally pass a piece of legislation that's not going to have to come back and be amended many more times as you try to implement and deal with this legislation in the coming year.

I would make that request—Mr Chairman, it's an unusual request; I appreciate your patience in allowing me the time to state the case—if we could have unanimous consent to have more time.

The First Deputy Chair: A request has been made by the honourable member, the leader of the third party. Is there unanimous consent?

Interjections: No.

The First Deputy Chair: I hear there is not. It is now after 5:30. We need to move on.

Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 29.1. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

[Report continues in volume B]

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffière adjointe et Greffière des comités: Deborah Deller

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| Algoma | Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud | ND | Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Algoma-Manitoulin | Brown, Michael A. | L | Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Beaches-Woodbine | Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances | ND | Minister of Health, minister responsible for the substance abuse strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre responsable de la Stratégie de prévention de la toxicomanie |
| Brampton North/-Nord | McClelland, Carman | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales |
| Brampton South/-Sud | Callahan, Robert V. | L | |
| Brant-Haldimand | Eddy, Ron | L | |
| Brantford | Ward, Brad | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Bruce | Elston, Murray J. | L | opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| Burlington South/-Sud | Jackson, Cameron | PC | Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Cambridge | Farnan, Mike | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative, adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Carleton | Sterling, Norman W. | PC | |
| Carleton East/-Est | Morin, Gilles E. | L | Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Chatham-Kent | Hope, Randy R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires |
| Cochrane North/-Nord | Wood, Len | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles |
| Cochrane South/-Sud | Bisson, Gilles | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Cornwall | Cleary, John C. | L | |
| Don Mills | Ward, Margery | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Dovercourt | Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony | ND | Minister of Education/ministre de l'Éducation |
| Downsview | Perruzza, Anthony | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Dufferin-Peel | Tilson, David | PC | |
| Durham Centre/-Centre | White, Drummond | ND | Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Durham East/-Est | Mills, Gord | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales |
| Durham West/-Ouest | Wiseman, Jim | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu |
| Durham-York | O'Connor, Larry | ND | parliamentary assistant to minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Eglinton | Poole, Dianne | L | |
| Elgin | North, Peter | ND | |
| Essex-Kent | Hayes, Pat | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Essex South/-Sud | Mancini, Remo | L | Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Etobicoke-Lakeshore | Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A. | ND | Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto |
| Etobicoke-Humber | Henderson, D. James | L | |
| Etobicoke-Rexdale | Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed | ND | Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, acting Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs par intérim |
| Etobicoke West/-Ouest | Stockwell, Chris | PC | |
| Fort William | McLeod, Lyn | L | Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition |
| Fort York | Marchese, Rosario | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales |
| Frontenac-Addington | Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred | ND | Minister of Government Services/ministre des Services gouvernementaux |
| Grey | Murdoch, Bill | PC | |
| Guelph | Fletcher, Derek | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| Halton Centre/-Centre | Sullivan, Barbara | L | |
| Halton North/-Nord | Duignan, Noel | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative |
| Hamilton Centre/-Centre | Christopherson, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Correctional Services/ministre des Services correctionnels |
| Hamilton East/-Est | Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail |
| Hamilton Mountain | Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian | ND | Minister of Financial Institutions, Minister of Energy/ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie |
| Hamilton West/-Ouest | Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard | ND | Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Hastings-Peterborough | Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer | ND | Minister of Agriculture and Food/ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| High Park-Swansea | Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine | ND | Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales |
| Huron | Klopp, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation |
| Kenora | Miclash, Frank | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Kingston and The Islands/ | Wilson, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle |
| Kingston et Les Îles | Ferguson, Will | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports |
| Kitchener | Cooper, Mike | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Solicitor General; deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/adjoint parlementaire du Solliciteur général, whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Kitchener-Wilmot | | | |
| Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon | Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles | ND | Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones |
| Lambton | MacKinnon, Ellen | ND | Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés |
| Lanark-Renfrew | Jordan, W. Leo | PC | |
| Lawrence | Cordiano, Joseph | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics |
| Leeds-Grenville | Runciman, Robert W. | PC | Chair, standing committee on government agencies/Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Lincoln | Hansen, Ron | ND | Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques |
| London Centre/-Centre | Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion | ND | Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine |
| London North/-Nord | Cunningham, Dianne | PC | Progressive Conservative chief whip/whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| London South/-Sud | Winninger, David | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones |
| Markham | Cousens, W. Donald | PC | Progressive Conservative deputy House leader/ chef parlementaire adjoint du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Middlesex | Mathysen, Irene | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement |
| Mississauga East/-Est | Sola, John | L | |
| Mississauga North/-Nord | Offer, Steven | L | |
| Mississauga South/-Sud | Marland, Margaret | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses |
| Mississauga West/-Ouest | Mahoney, Steven W. | L | opposition chief whip/whip en chef de l'opposition |
| Muskoka-Georgian Bay | Waters, Daniel | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs |
| Nepean | Daigeler, Hans | L | Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| Niagara Falls | Harrington, Margaret H. | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement |
| Niagara South/-Sud | Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley | ND | Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement |
| Nickel Belt | Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd | ND | Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie |
| Nipissing | Harris, Michael | PC | leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Norfolk | Jamison, Norm | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie |
| Northumberland | Fawcett, Joan M. | L | |
| Oakville South/-Sud | Carr, Gary | PC | |
| Oakwood | Rizzo, Tony | ND | |
| Oriole | Caplan, Elinor | L | |
| Oshawa | Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan | ND | Solicitor General/Solliciteur général |
| Ottawa Centre/-Centre | Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn | ND | Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement |
| Ottawa East/-Est | Grandmaître, Bernard C. | L | |
| Ottawa-Rideau | O'Neill, Yvonne | L | |
| Ottawa South/-Sud | McGuinty, Dalton J.P. | L | |
| Ottawa West/-Ouest | Chiarelli, Robert | L | |
| Oxford | Sutherland, Kimble | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités |
| Parkdale | Ruprecht, Tony | L | |
| Parry Sound | Eves, Ernie | PC | Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur |
| Perth | Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen | ND | Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Peterborough | Carter, Jenny | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| Port Arthur | Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu |
| Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell | Poirier, Jean | L | |
| Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud | Johnson, Paul R. | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie |
| Quinte | O'Neil, Hugh P. | L | |
| Rainy River | Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard | ND | Attorney General/Procureur général |
| Renfrew North/-Nord | Conway, Sean G. | L | Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition |
| Riverdale | Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn | ND | Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce |
| S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est | Villeneuve, Noble | PC | Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| St Andrew-St Patrick | Akande, Zanana | ND | parliamentary assistant to the Premier/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre |
| St Catharines | Bradley, James J. | L | opposition deputy House leader/chef parlementaire de l'opposition |
| St. Catharines-Brock | Haeck, Christel | ND | government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman |

| Constituency | Name of member | Party | Other responsibilities |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|--|
| St. George-St. David Sarnia | Vacant Huget, Bob | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Energy; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie | Martin, Tony | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation |
| Scarborough-Agincourt | Phillips, Gerry | L | |
| Scarborough Centre/-Centre | Owens, Stephen | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières |
| Scarborough East/-Est | Frankford, Robert | ND | |
| Scarborough-Ellesmere | Warner, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Speaker/Président |
| Scarborough North/-Nord | Curling, Alvin | L | opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition |
| Scarborough West/-Ouest | Swarbrick, Anne | ND | |
| Simcoe Centre/-Centre | Wessenger, Paul | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé |
| Simcoe East/-Est | McLean, Allan K. | PC | Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux |
| Simcoe West/-Ouest | Wilson, Jim | PC | |
| Sudbury | Murdock, Sharon | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail |
| Sudbury East/-Est | Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley | ND | Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines |
| Timiskaming | Ramsay, David | L | |
| Victoria-Haliburton | Drainville, Dennis | ND | First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative |
| Waterloo North/-Nord | Witmer, Elizabeth | PC | |
| Welland-Thorold | Kormos, Peter | ND | Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources |
| Wellington | Arnott, Ted | PC | |
| Wentworth East/-Est | Morrow, Mark | ND | Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice |
| Wentworth North/-Nord | Abel, Donald | ND | government whip/whip du gouvernement |
| Willowdale | Harnick, Charles | PC | |
| Wilson Heights | Kwinter, Monte | L | |
| Windsor-Riverside | Cooke, Hon/L'hon David | ND | Minister of Municipal Affairs, Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet and government House leader/ministre des Affaires municipales, président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, et leader parlementaire du gouvernement |
| Windsor-Sandwich | Dadamo, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications |
| Windsor-Walkerville | Lessard, Wayne | ND | parliamentary assistant to Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement |
| York Centre/-Centre | Sorbara, Gregory S. | L | |
| York East/-Est | Malkowski, Gary | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques |
| York Mills | Turnbull, David | PC | Progressive Conservative whip/whip du Parti progressiste- conservateur |
| York North/-Nord | Beer, Charles | L | Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales |
| York South/-Sud | Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob | ND | Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil exécutif, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales |
| Yorkview | Mammoliti, George | ND | parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels |

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli,
Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney,
Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman,
Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson,
Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Larry O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza,
David Ramsay
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

**Finance and economic affairs/
Finances et affaires économiques**

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, Norm Jamison,
Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward,
Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher,
Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario
Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary,
Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario
Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland,
Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin,
Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan,
D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch,
Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel
Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson,
Larry O'Connor, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

**Regulations and private bills/
Règlements et projets de loi privés**

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan,
Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola,
Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Bob Huget
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, W. Leo Jordan,
Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer,
David Turnbull, Daniel Waters, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin,
Irene Mathyssen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White,
Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

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Wednesday 2 December 1992

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Mercredi 2 décembre 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 2 December 1992

[Report continued from volume A]

1740

ADVOCACY ACT, 1992, AND COMPANION LEGISLATION LOI DE 1992 SUR L'INTERVENTION ET LES PROJETS DE LOI QUI L'ACCOMPAGNENT

Continuing consideration of Bill 74, An Act respecting the Provision of Advocacy Services to Vulnerable Persons / Loi concernant la prestation de services d'intervention en faveur des personnes vulnérables; Bill 108, An Act to provide for the making of Decisions on behalf of Adults concerning the Management of their Property and concerning their Personal Care / Loi prévoyant la prise de décisions au nom d'adultes en ce qui concerne la gestion de leurs biens et le soin de leur personne; Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment / Loi concernant le consentement au traitement; and Bill 110, An Act to amend certain Statutes of Ontario consequent upon the enactment of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 and the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 / Loi modifiant certaines lois de l'Ontario par suite de l'adoption de la Loi de 1992 sur l'intervention, de la Loi de 1992 sur le consentement au traitement et de la Loi de 1992 sur la prise de décisions au nom d'autrui.

The First Deputy Chair (Mr Dennis Drainville): Mrs Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 30. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Chairman: The unanimous agreement which was presented before we went into committee of the whole this afternoon was that at 5:30 today—admittedly, we're slightly delayed—the Chair will read all of the amendments into the record and will then put all of the questions. Mr Chair, I suggest to you that you will have to read all of the amendments, as if they were being presented by the minister, on this bill and on every other bill.

The First Deputy Chair: I thank the honourable member for indicating what is the clear duty and the agreement that's been made among the parties in the House.

That being the case, Mrs Ziemba has moved that section 30 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "sections 31 to 35" in the first line and substituting "sections 31 to 35.2."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 31(1), as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "a vulnerable person" in the third line and substituting "an individual."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 31(4) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be

amended by striking out "a vulnerable person" in the third line and substituting "an individual."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, please say "aye."

Those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 31(5) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Permitted disclosure related to provision of advocacy services

"(5) If the disclosure is related to the provision of advocacy services to a vulnerable person, an advocate may disclose information about an individual obtained in the course of the advocate's duties,

"(a) to the vulnerable person;

"(b) to any other person, with the vulnerable person's consent;

"(c) to the vulnerable person's guardian of the person, guardian of property, attorney under a power of attorney for personal care or attorney under a power of attorney that confers authority in respect of the vulnerable person's property, or to any other person authorized to make decisions on behalf of the vulnerable person, if the advocate is taking instructions from the guardian, attorney or other person under subsection 19(2) and,

"(i) the information was obtained under subsection 24(4), or

"(ii) the information is not contained in a record;

"(d) to any person, if the information was obtained under subsection 24(4) or (5) and the person who gave the consent required by that subsection consents to the disclosure;

"(e) to other persons who work for the commission, if the advocate works for the commission and the disclosure is necessary in connection with the commission's provision of advocacy services to the vulnerable person; and

"(f) to other persons who work for a community agency, if the advocate works for the community agency and the disclosure is necessary in connection with the agency's provision of advocacy services to the vulnerable person.

"Permitted disclosure, other grounds

"(5.1) An advocate may disclose information about an individual obtained in the course of his or her duties,

"(a) to other persons who work for the commission or a community agency, if the advocate is designated under subsection 25(3) and the disclosure is necessary in connection with the provision of advocacy services under clause 7(1)(c),

"(b) to a coroner, if the individual is dead;

"(c) to the advocate's lawyer;

"(d) in a proceeding brought against the commission, a member of the commission, the advocate or,

"(i) if the advocate works for the commission, any other advocate or other person who works for the commission, or

"(ii) if the advocate works for a community agency, the community agency or any other advocate or other person who works for the community agency;

"(e) in response to a complaint made against the advocate under the review procedure established under clause 7(1)(m) by a vulnerable person to whom the advocate has provided advocacy services or by the vulnerable person's estate."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): May I speak on this?

The First Deputy Chair: No, you may not. I'm sorry. At this point, there's no debate, no questions and/or comments. We move through each one of these sections at this point.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Chair: Do you mean that this House is not going to allow debate on an amendment which is two pages long, which deals with the disclosure of information about a vulnerable person's record? We cannot debate it in this Legislature?

The First Deputy Chair: In terms of the order as set down on May 28, that's correct, you may not debate it.

Shall the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion please signify by saying "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Mr Sterling: We would like a division.

The First Deputy Chair: This is a deferred vote.

Mrs Ziembra has moved an amendment that subsection 31(6) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Same, serious bodily harm

"(6) Despite subsection 17(1), if an advocate has information that constitutes reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is likely to cause serious bodily harm to himself or herself or to another person, the advocate may disclose the information to the appropriate persons."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Could I ask the honourable member for Carleton, if he's asking for a division, to stand at that point? It just gives us a little extra time and the table officers can also see it.

Mr Sterling: I was standing, Mr Chairman.

The First Deputy Chair: I'm too wise to make any comment on that.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment that subsection 31(6.1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(6.1) If an advocate has information that constitutes reasonable grounds to believe that a vulnerable person is likely to suffer serious bodily harm, the advocate shall disclose the information to the appropriate persons."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion please say "aye."

Those opposed to the motion, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mrs Sullivan: Deferred vote.

The First Deputy Chair: Deferred.

Mrs Ziembra has moved an amendment that subsection 31(9) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Required disclosure related to provision of advocacy services

"(9) Subject to section 32 and despite subsection 17(1), if the disclosure is related to the provision of advocacy services to a vulnerable person, an advocate shall disclose information about an individual obtained in the course of the advocate's duties,

"(a) to the vulnerable person, at the vulnerable person's request;

"(b) to any other person, at the vulnerable person's request;

"(c) to the vulnerable person's guardian of the person, guardian of property, attorney under a power of attorney for personal care or attorney under a power of attorney that confers authority in respect of the vulnerable person's property, or to any other person authorized to make decisions on behalf of the vulnerable person, if the advocate is taking instructions from the guardian, attorney or other person under subsection 19(2), the guardian, attorney or other person requests the information, and

"(i) the information was obtained under subsection 24(4), or

"(ii) the information is not contained in a record.

"Required disclosure, other grounds

"(9.1) Despite subsection 17(1), an advocate shall disclose information about an individual obtained in the course of the advocate's duties,

"(a) to a member of the commission or a person who works for the commission, at the commission's request;

"(b) to the public guardian and trustee, if the advocate has reasonable grounds to believe that,

"(i) the individual is a vulnerable person,

"(ii) the individual is incapable of instructing an advocate, and

"(iii) there is a risk of serious harm to the health or safety of the individual."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mr Sterling: No, I said no.

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The First Deputy Chair: I now hear that the honourable member has said no. Might I counsel the honourable member to please say no in such a way that the Chair of this committee can hear the honourable member.

All those in favour of the motion, signify by saying "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziembra has moved that subsection 31(10) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be

amended by striking out the portion before clause (a) and substituting the following:

"(10) An advocate may be required to testify in a proceeding with regard to information about an individual obtained in the course of providing advocacy services to a vulnerable person, but only,"

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 31(11) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "vulnerable person's" in the third line."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 32(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "clause 31(9)(a), (b) or (c)" in the third line and substituting "subsection 31(9)."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsections 32(2), (4), (5) and (6) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by,

(a) striking out "requested the information" in the second line of subsection (2) and substituting "requested the disclosure of the information";

(b) striking out "requested the information" in the first and second lines of subsection (4) and substituting "requested the disclosure of the information";

(c) striking out "requested the information" in the fourth line of subsection (5) and substituting "requested the disclosure of the information"; and

(d) striking out "requested the information" in the second and third lines of subsection (6) and substituting "requested the disclosure of the information."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 32(9) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Procedure

"(9) Sections 39 to 45 of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992, and the Statutory Powers Procedure Act do not apply to an application under this section."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that section 33 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by,

(a) striking out "a vulnerable person" in the fourth and fifth lines of subsection (1) and substituting "an individual";

(b) striking out "a vulnerable person" in the fourth line of subsection (4) and substituting "an individual"; and

(c) striking out "a vulnerable person" in the fourth and fifth lines of subsection 5 and substituting "an individual."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that section 34 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "a vulnerable person" in the second line and substituting "an individual."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziemba has moved sections 35.1 and 35.2, that the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following sections after section 35:

"Identifying information obtained under section 25

"35.1 Despite any other provision of this act, an advocate who obtains access to a record under section 25 that contains the name of or any means of identifying an individual shall not disclose to any person, directly or indirectly, any information from the record that includes the name of or any means of identifying the individual, except with the consent of the individual.

"Complaints re health professionals

"35.2 Despite any other provision of this act, if a complaint or report against a member of a college as defined in the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, is made to the college, an advocate who learns of the complaint or report from a record to which the advocate obtained access under this act shall not disclose to any person, directly or indirectly, the fact that the complaint or report was made."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment that subsection 36(2.1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"Entry to private dwellings

"(2.1) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who refuses to allow an advocate to enter a private dwelling, a dwelling unit in a controlled-access residence, or private accommodation in a facility without a warrant for entry."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? The motion is lost.

Mrs Ziemba has moved that subsection 36(3) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Offence, obstructing access to records etc.

"(3) No person shall hinder or obstruct an advocate who is exercising a right of access to records conferred by

section 24, 25 or 26 or a right under section 29.1, or who is seeking to do so."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziembra has moved that subsection 38(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Offence, improper disclosure by advocate

"(1) An advocate who discloses, in contravention of this act, information about an individual obtained in the course of his or her duties is guilty of an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding,

"(a) \$5,000, if the disclosure does not contravene sections 35.1 or 35.2; or

"(b) \$10,000, if the disclosure contravenes section 35.1 or 35.2."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

1800

Mrs Sullivan moves that subsection 39(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "The commission may, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, make regulations" in the first three lines and substituting "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. The motion is lost.

Mrs Ziembra moves that clauses 39(1), (a.1) and (d.1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following clauses:

"(a.1) prescribing circumstances in which the public may be excluded from a meeting or part of a meeting of the commission;

"(d.1) prescribing persons to whom identification shall be presented under subsection 20(2)."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Those in favour of the motion say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Ziembra moves that clause 39(1)(e) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "clauses 24(1)(c), 25(1)(c) and 26(1)(c) in the first and second lines and substituting "clauses 24(1)(c), 25(2)(c), 26(2)(c) and 29.1(2)(c)."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

I would like to say to the honourable members that there was an agreement previously as regards the order of the bills, as we are to go through them. We've dispensed with Bill 74 at this point. It was agreed we would go to

Bill 109 and then Bill 108 and then Bill 110. So we now have Bill 109 before us.

Mr Sterling: Since they're being read, I haven't been given a copy of the amendments, the government motions.

The First Deputy Chair: We are now dealing with Bill 109.

Mrs Ziembra has moved amendments to subsection 1(1) of the bill, that the definition of "rights adviser," as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding at the end—

Interjection: Dispense.

The First Deputy Chair: Dispense.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Yes, the honourable member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: Do you dispense with the reading of the amendment into the record the first time?

The First Deputy Chair: I heard that there was unanimous consent before, on Bill 74, that it was important they all be read out. They have been. We've moved to another bill. If the honourable member is saying that he wants to hear—

Mr Sterling: The problem becomes, where is the public record of the amendment?

The First Deputy Chair: The honourable member has every right to request that each amendment be read out. If that's the will of the honourable member—

Mr Sterling: That's the will of the honourable member.

The First Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Mrs Ziembra has moved amendments to subsection 1(1), that the definition of "rights adviser" be amended by the administration of justice committee by adding at the end, "other than a health practitioner or a person who is employed by a health practitioner or health facility."

Interjection.

The First Deputy Chair: I'm sorry. My apologies to the House. We've now moved on to a different bill and a different minister.

Ms Lankin has moved amendments to subsection 1(1), definition of "rights adviser," that the definition of "rights adviser" in subsection 1(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding at the end "other than a health practitioner or a person who is employed by a health practitioner or health facility."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan moves amendments to subsection 1(1), "rights adviser," that the definition of "rights adviser" in subsection 1(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Rights adviser" means, in the prescribed circumstances, a person who is a member of a prescribed category, other than a health practitioner or a person who is employed by a hospital, psychiatric facility or by an organization that provides health care services."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 1(1), "rights adviser." Let me just say before I read the motion by Mrs Sullivan that this is an alternate motion to the one that was just done a moment ago.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 1(1): "Rights adviser," as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out the definition of "rights adviser" and substituting the following:

"'Rights adviser' means, in the prescribed circumstances, a person who is a member of a prescribed category (conseiller en matière de droit").

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 6(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on the administration of justice, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Capacity with respect to treatment

"(1) A person is capable with respect to a treatment if the person is able to understand the information in respect of which consent is required and is able to appreciate the consequences of giving or withholding consent."

1810

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Sterling has moved that section 9 of the bill be amended by:

(a) striking out "twelve years of age" in the second line of subsection (1) and substituting "fourteen years of age";

(b) striking out "twelve years of age" in the second and third lines of subsection (2) and substituting "fourteen years of age";

(c) striking out "twelve years of age" in the third line of subsection (3) and substituting "fourteen years of age"—

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I'm sorry to interrupt you, but in moving through the motions that were filed, I believe there was a Liberal motion to subsection 9(1). Had you dealt with that, or do you not have that?

The First Deputy Chair: We're getting to that next. I have section 9 here and I'll be moving to 9(1) next.

Hon Ms Lankin: Thank you very much for the clarification. I appreciate that.

The First Deputy Chair: No problem. Where was I? I think I was on (c). Did I finish (c)? Let's say we finished (c).

(d) striking out "twelve years of age" in the second line of subsection (4) and substituting "fourteen years of age."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 9(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "twelve years" in the second line and substituting "sixteen years."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsections 9(2) and (3) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(2) If the health practitioner finds that a person who is sixteen years of age or more is incapable with respect to a treatment that is a controlled act within the meaning of subsection 27(2) of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, the health practitioner shall ensure that the person is given a written notice, which may be in the prescribed form, indicating that the person is entitled to meet with a rights adviser and is entitled to make an application to the board under section 28."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 9(2) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "twelve years" in the second and third lines and substituting "sixteen years."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 9(3) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"(3) If in a place other than a psychiatric facility a health practitioner finds that a person who is sixteen years of age or more is incapable with respect to a treatment that is a controlled act within the meaning of subsection 27(2) of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, other than a prescribed controlled act, the health practitioner shall ensure that the person is given a written notice, which may be in the prescribed form, indicating that the person is entitled to make an application to the board under section 28."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan moves that subsection 9(3) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "twelve years" in the third line and substituting "sixteen years."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Sterling has moved—

Mr Sterling: Withdrawn.

The First Deputy Chair: Mr Sterling has withdrawn the motion to amend subsection 9(3).

Mrs Sullivan moves that subsection 9(4) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(4) A health practitioner who finds that a person who is sixteen years of age or more is incapable with respect to a treatment shall ensure that a rights adviser is notified of the finding if,

"(a) the finding is made in a psychiatric facility, or

"(b) the person requests a meeting with a rights adviser."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan moves that subsection 9(4) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out "twelve years" in the second line and substituting "sixteen years."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Sterling has moved an amendment to subsection 9(4)—

Mr Sterling: Withdrawn.

The First Deputy Chair: Mr Sterling has withdrawn his amendment to subsection 9(4).

Ms Lankin has moved that subsection 12(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "to be used if the person becomes incapable" in the second and third lines.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved that subsection 13(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by:

(a) striking out "while capable" in the third line of paragraph 1 and substituting "while capable and after attaining sixteen years of age" and,

(b) striking out "while capable" in the third and fourth lines of paragraph 2 and substituting "while capable and after attaining sixteen years of age."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved that clause 13(2)(b) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(b) any wishes expressed by the incapable person with respect to the treatment that are not required to be followed under paragraph 1 of subsection 1, and"

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved that the French version of paragraph 4 of clause 13(2)(c) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "et" in the second line and substituting "ou."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

1820

Mrs Sullivan has moved that section 14 of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be struck out.

This amendment is out of order.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 19(1.1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(1.1) A hospital, psychiatric facility or prescribed health facility may detain an incapable person who is admitted in accordance with the consent given under this section for the purpose of treatment subject to subsection (2)."

Is the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 23(1) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out the word "bodily" in the fourth line of clause (b) and in the sixth line of clause (c).

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour of the motion, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mrs Sullivan has moved that subsection 23(2) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the standing committee on administration of justice, be amended by striking out the word "bodily" in the fifth line of clause (b).

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Sterling has moved that subsection 23(10) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Admission to hospital

"(10) The authority to administer treatment under subsection (1), (2) or (3) includes authority to have the person admitted to a hospital or psychiatric facility for the purpose of the treatment."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved that section 24 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by

(a) striking out "while capable" in the fourth line of clause (a) and substituting "while capable and after attaining 16 years of age"; and

(b) striking out "while capable" in the third line of clause (b) and substituting "while capable and after attaining 16 years of age."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Might I just say to the honourable members, I do need to hear clearly whether there is a disagreement on this particular issue, so it would be very helpful if the members of the House would please express themselves so that I can hear them clearly.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, I will give you advance notice that I intend to disagree on most things.

The First Deputy Chair: I appreciate the comments of the honourable member for Carleton, but I still need to hear that as we go through this process. Thank you very much.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment that clause 25(a) of the bill, as reprinted to show the amendments made by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out the word "bodily" in the fifth line.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment that section 27 of the French version of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "consentement" in the second line "à un traitement."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment that subsection 30(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "or" at the end of clause (b), adding "or" at the end of clause (c) and adding the following clause:

"(d) it is not clear whether the wish was expressed after the incapable person attained 16 years of age."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment that section 31 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by:

(a) striking out "while capable" in the eighth and ninth lines of subsection (1) and substituting "while capable and after attaining 16 years of age"; and

(b) striking out "while capable" in the fourth line of subsection (3) and substituting "while capable and after attaining 16 years of age."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment that subsection 39(1) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "written notice of a proceeding" in the first and second lines and substituting "an application."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment that section 44 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out.

Might I say to Ms Lankin that this motion is out of order and that at the vote stage the government should vote against this particular section.

Mr Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre): On a point of order, Mr Chair: I was under the impression that there was an agreement made that certain motions were in order. Maybe this was not one of them.

The First Deputy Chair: I thank the honourable member. This was not one of them, however.

Hon Ms Lankin: Mr Chair, just as a procedural question for clarification that would be of help to me, when we were going through the amendments earlier on Bill 74 and there was debate at the end of each of the amendments to a section, we actually took a vote as well on the section. Going through Bill 108, we are not doing that at this point in time. I'm wondering if there is just an explanation. I wanted to make sure it was in order.

1830

The First Deputy Chair: We will be doing that when the members are called in, at that point.

Ms Lankin has moved that clause 49(1)(j) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "standards" in the second line "procedures."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

I would ask the Attorney General if he would like to move down to the table, close to his support staff. We will now move to Bill 108.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 7(5) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "shall continue" in the fifth line and substituting "are authorized."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subclause 12(1)(a)(i) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "continues" in the first line and substituting "is authorized."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that the French version of clause 24(5)(a) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "est" in the first line "ou non."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Sterling: Non. It was a French vote.

The First Deputy Chair: As many will tell the honourable member, the Chair needs no help in distracting.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 37(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by:

(a) striking out "more than" in the third line of paragraph 2; and,

(b) striking out "more than" in the third line of paragraph 3.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that clause 42(7)(d) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "examination" in the first line and substituting "assessment."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Interjections.

The First Deputy Chair: Order, please.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Are you speaking to me?

The First Deputy Chair: I am.

Mr Hampton has moved that subclause 53(1)(a)(i) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "continues" in the first line and substituting "is authorized."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that clause 57(3)(a) of the French version of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "est" in the first line "ou non."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 83(3) of the French version of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by inserting after "devait" in the third line "avoir pour effet probable d'."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

1840

Mr Hampton has moved that section 90.1 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following section after section 90:

"Transition

"90.1 Subject to subsections 46(10) and (11), if a power of attorney for personal care is made in accordance with this act before this act comes into force, the power of attorney takes effect when this act comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

I would say to the honourable members that we are now moving to the fourth and final bill, which is Bill 110.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment that subsection 7(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by,

(a) striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the first and second lines and substituting "the day section 16 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force"; and

(b) striking out "the act" in the fourth line and substituting "the Developmental Services Act."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment that subsection 7(4) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the coming into force of this act" in the third and fourth lines and substituting "the coming into force of section 16 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment that subsection 7(5) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the act before the day this act comes into force" in the second and third lines and substituting "the Developmental Services Act before the day section 16 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment that subsection 13(6) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(8) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice

committee, be amended by striking out "sections 42 and 43" in the first line and substituting "section 42."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(9) of the bill, subsection 35(2) of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 20(9) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

(9) Subsection 35(2) of the act is amended by striking out "subsections (3) and (5)" in the first and second lines and substituting "this section."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(11.1) of the bill, clauses 35(3)(e.1) and (e.2) of the Mental Health Act, that section 20 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(11.1) Subsection 35(3) of the act is amended by adding the following clauses:

"(e.1) if the patient has died, the personal representative of the patient;

"(e.2) a lawyer acting on behalf of the psychiatric facility or on behalf of any person employed in or on the staff of the facility."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(12.1) of the bill, subsection 35(6) of the Mental Health Act, that section 20 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(12.1) Subsection 35(6) of the act is amended by striking out the portion after clause (b) and substituting the following:

"No person shall comply with the requirement with respect to the clinical record or the part of the clinical record specified by the attending physician except under an order made by the court or body before which the matter is or may be the issue after a hearing from which the public is excluded and that is held on notice to the attending physician."

Hon Ms Lankin: On a point of order, Mr Chair: Again for procedural clarification, if the Chair makes an error in the reading into the record, does that need to be corrected at this time?

The First Deputy Chair: I added the word "the," didn't I?

Hon Ms Lankin: That's right.

The First Deputy Chair: I realized that at the time. Shall I read it over again just to make sure the record is clear?

Hon Ms Lankin: Thank you.

The First Deputy Chair: "No person shall comply with the requirement with respect to the clinical record or the part of the clinical record specified by the attending physician except under an order made by the court or body before which the matter is or may be in issue after a hearing from which the public is excluded and that is held on notice to the attending physician."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that section 20, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(15.1) Section 35 of the act is further amended by adding the following subsection:

"Other proceedings

"(11) Subsection (9) does not apply to a proceeding before a court or any other body that is commenced by or on behalf of a patient and that relates to the assessment or treatment of the patient in a psychiatric facility."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment that subsection 36(12) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(16) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Procedure

"(12) Sections 42 and 48 of this act, sections 39 to 45 of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 and the Statutory Powers Procedure Act do not apply to an application under subsection (4).

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 36(15) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(17) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "sections 42 and 43" in the first line and substituting "section 42."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

1850

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(21) of the bill, subsection 38(1) of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 38(1) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(21) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out, and the following substituted:

"Notice of certificate

"(1) An attending physician who completes a certificate of involuntary admission or a certificate of renewal shall promptly give the patient a written notice that complies with subsection (1.1) and shall also promptly notify a rights adviser.

"Contents of notice to patient

"(1.1) The written notice given to the patient shall inform the patient,

"(a) of the reasons for the detention;

"(b) that the patient is entitled to a hearing before the board; and

"(c) that the patient has the right to retain and instruct counsel without delay."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(21) of the bill, subsection 38(3) of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 38(3) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(21) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "states the reasons for the detention and" in the sixth and seventh lines.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(21) of the bill, subsection 38(5) of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 38(5) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(21) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "states the reasons for the detention and" in the fourth and fifth lines.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(22.1) of the bill, section 43 of the Mental Health Act, that section 20 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following subsection:

"(22.1) Section 43 of the act is repealed."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved amendments to subsections 20(24), (24.1) and (24.2) of the bill, sections 46 and 47 of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 20(24) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out, and the following substituted:

"(24) Section 46 of the act is repealed.

"(24.1) Subsection 47(1) of the act is repealed and the following substituted:

"Communication re subject matter of hearing

"(1) The members of a review board conducting a hearing shall not communicate directly or indirectly in relation to the subject matter of the hearing with any party, counsel, agent or other person, unless all the parties and their counsel or agents receive notice and have an opportunity to participate.

"Exception

"(1.1) However, the members of the review board conducting the hearing may seek advice from an adviser independent of the parties, and in that case the nature of the advice shall be communicated to them so that they may make submissions as to the law.

"(1.2) Subsections (1) and (1.1) are repealed on the day subsection 41(1) of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 comes into force.

"(24.2) Subsections 47(2), (3) and (4) of the act are repealed."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(34) of the bill, sections 50, 51 and 52 of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 20(34) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"(34) Sections 50, 51 and 52 of the act are repealed and the following substituted:

"Application to board

"50. If a patient or another person on a patient's behalf gives or transmits to the officer in charge an application to the board under this or any other act, the officer in charge shall promptly transmit the application to the board."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(38) of the bill, subsection 60(2) of the Mental Health Act, that subsection 60(2) of the Mental Health Act, as set out in subsection 20(38) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "sections 42 and 43" in the third line and substituting "section 42."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(46) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the fifth line and substituting "the day subsection 20(19) of this act comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that the definition of "old board" in subsection 20(47) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day before this act comes into force" in the third and fourth lines and substituting "the day before section 35 of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(48) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the second and third lines and substituting "the day section 35 of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(50) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the second line and substituting "the day section 35 of the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(51) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by,

(a) striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the first and second lines and substituting "the day section 15 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force";

(b) striking out "the act" in the third line and substituting "the Mental Health Act"; and

(c) striking out "the act" in the sixth line and substituting "the Mental Health Act."

1900

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(52) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by,

(a) striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the first and second lines and substituting "the day section 16 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force"; and

(b) striking out "the act" in the third line and substituting "the Mental Health Act."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(54) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the coming into force of this act" in the third and fourth lines and substituting "the coming into force of section 16 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 20(55) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by:

(a) striking out "the act" in the second line and substituting "the Mental Health Act"; and

(b) striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the third and fourth lines and substituting "the day section 15 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 21(2) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the second line and substituting "the day section 22 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 21(4) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by striking out "the day this act comes into force" in the second line and substituting "the day section 55 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 comes into force."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that subsection 21(5) of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Same

"(5) A guardianship referred to in subsection (2) is terminated on the second anniversary of the coming into force of section 22 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992, unless the guardian, before that day, files a statement with the public guardian and trustee in the form provided by the public guardian and trustee.

"Same

"(6) A guardianship referred to in subsection (4) is terminated on the second anniversary of the coming into force of section 55 of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992, unless the guardian, before that day, files a statement with the public guardian and trustee in the form provided by the public guardian and trustee."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour say "aye."

Those opposed say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be amended by adding the following section:

"Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act"

"22.1 Clause 54(b) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection and Privacy Act is repealed and the following substituted:

"(b) by the individual's attorney under a continuing power of attorney, the individual's attorney under a validated power of attorney for personal care, the individual's

guardian of the person or the individual's guardian of property; and"

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

Mr Hampton has moved that section 27 of the bill, as amended by the administration of justice committee, be struck out and the following substituted:

"Commencement

"(1) This act, except subsections 20(9), (11.1), (12.1), (15.1) and (24.1), comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.

"Same

"(2) Subsections 20(9), (11.1), (12.1), (15.1) and (24.1) comes into force on the day this act receives royal assent."

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

Those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it. Deferred vote.

The division bells rang from 1908 to 1924.

The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve):

Would all members please take their seats. We have a number of bills to deal with and I want to remind all members that we will be here with locked doors.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I have a point of order with respect to the vote that was taken on subsection 24(7) of Bill 74. I inquired of the Chair at the time as to whether that amendment, which was proposed by the government, was in order, because it proposed to strike out subsection 24(7) of the bill. The Chair ruled at the time that the amendment as proposed was in order.

Without challenging the Chair, I'm asking the Chair to reconsider that decision and to determine whether that amendment was in order, which I do not believe, and whether the process should be that when the vote is considered, that subsection of the bill should be either voted for or against in the usual manner.

The Second Deputy Chair: I'm advised by the Clerk that with regard to subsection 24(7), to remove a subsection is indeed in order.

Mrs Sullivan: Then may I ask, Mr Chairman, why in other sections of the bills that we were considering tonight, when there were other amendments proposed to strike out sections of the bill or subsections of the bill, they were deemed to be out of order? This is a very unusual ruling from the Chair.

The Second Deputy Chair: It's my understanding that to remove a subsection, the vote was held. However, to remove a section can be deemed out of order, because the section was simply voted against in total. Does that satisfy your point of order?

Mrs Sullivan: No, it doesn't, Mr Chairman, because indeed we were dealing with a subsection of the bill, a motion concerning which subsection was placed to the House to strike out that particular subsection. When the subsection was placed, voting against that subsection or the entire section, the ruling was that the amendment proposed to strike out was in order. In fact, the tradition in this

place has been to vote against the subsection rather than to accept an amendment which moves to strike out a section of the bill as it's printed and as it has been circulated.

The Second Deputy Chair: A subsection can be removed and struck from the bill. However, a section in total must be considered out of order. When you are voting against a complete section, you vote for or against that section, whereas a subsection can be deleted by a vote in committee of the whole. Does that clarify the point for the honourable member?

Mrs Sullivan: I understand your ruling, Mr Chair. I do not believe that that is the ruling that has been the precedent and the tradition in this place.

Mr Mancini: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I understand that the voting procedures we're going to embark upon this evening may take up to one hour in length. I was wondering if we could have the unanimous consent of the House to have the doors opened so that members could come and go because of the length of the voting.

No? Well, I thank all the members for their thoughtful consideration.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are now moving into Bill 74, An Act respecting the Provision of Advocacy Services to Vulnerable Persons.

We have an amendment to section 2 by Mrs Sullivan. We are now voting on Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 2.

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 2, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 2, please rise and remain standing.

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The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment defeated.

Shall section 2 stand as part of the bill? Agreed. Section 2 is carried.

We now move to section 7. Mrs Sullivan has an amendment to clause 7(1)(k).

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 7, please stand and remain standing.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare the amendment lost.

We are now moving to a further amendment by Mrs Sullivan to clause 7(1)(l). All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment?

Same vote. The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment defeated.

An amendment to clause 7(1)(m) by Mrs Sullivan. Same vote.

The honourable member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: I wanted to tell you I was in favour of this amendment. We didn't get a chance to debate it during the other part of the process.

The Second Deputy Chair: The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment lost.

Shall section 7, as amended, carry?

All those in favour of section 7, as amended, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to section 7, as amended, please rise.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 7, as amended, carried.

We are now moving to a new section, 16.1: an amendment moved by Mr Jim Wilson pertaining to section 16.1. Shall the amendment by Mr Wilson from Simcoe West carry?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

Same vote reversed? Agreed. The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I therefore declare the Mr Wilson's amendment to be defeated.

Section 16 has been carried; 17 has been carried; 18 has been carried.

We are now moving into a new section, section 19.1: an amendment moved by Mrs Sullivan to section 19.1. All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

Same vote? Agreed? Agreed. The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment to section 19.1 defeated. This is a new section.

Therefore, section 19 carries.

We have an amendment to section 21. Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 21(2).

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

Same vote? Agreed. The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. Therefore I declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 21(2) defeated.

Shall section 21 stand as part of the bill?

Same vote reversed? Agreed. The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. Therefore I declare section 21 carried.

We have an amendment to subsections 22(2) and (3) by Ms Ziemba. All those in favour of Ms Ziemba's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Ziemba's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. Therefore I declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsections 22(2) and (3) carried.

A further amendment to subsection 22(3.1) by Mr Sterling. All those in favour of Mr Sterling's amendment, please rise.

Same vote reversed? Agreed. The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mr Sterling's amendment to section 22 defeated.

Shall section 22, as amended, carry? Same vote? Same vote reversed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 22 of the bill carried.

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We now have further amendments to section 24.

Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 24(7). All those in favour of Ms Ziemba's amendment to section 24, please rise. Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 24(7) carried.

Shall section 24, as amended, carry as part of the bill? Agreed. I declare section 24, as amended, carried.

There was an amendment to section 30 by Ms Ziemba. Carried?

Shall section 30, as amended, carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore, I declare section 30, as amended, to carry.

We have a number of amendments to section 31.

Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 31(4). Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore, I declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(4) carried.

A further amendment by Ms Ziemba, to subsection 31(5). Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(5) carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(5) carried.

A further amendment by Ms Ziemba, to subsection 31(6). Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore, I declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(6) carried.

On a point of order, the honourable member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: Because my caucus is voting against the government motions on the basis that there was no opportunity to debate them, I'm quite willing to indicate to the Chair that my caucus will be voting against every government amendment on Bill 74 and can be recorded as such in order to shorten this process.

The Second Deputy Chair: The votes have been deferred, and it's my understanding that we have to proceed with the stacked and deferred votes as per what we have been doing.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Surely we can do it by unanimous consent.

Mr Mancini: We can do anything by unanimous consent.

The Second Deputy Chair: Do we have unanimous consent? We do not have unanimous consent. Thank you.

We are now moving to an amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 31(6.1). All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 31(6.1)? Carried. The same vote reversed? Agreed.

The ayes are 17; the nays are 47. I declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

A further amendment, to subsection 31(9), by Ms Ziemba: Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(9) carry? Carried. The same vote reversed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(9) carried.

A further amendment by Ms Ziemba, to subsection 31(10): The same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I declare the amendment to subsection 31(1) carried.

A further amendment, to subsection 31(11), by Ms Ziemba: Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 31(11) carried.

This completes amendments to section 31. Shall section 31, as amended, carry? Carried. Same vote.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 31, as amended, carried as part of the bill.

We now move to section 32. Ms Ziemba has an amendment to subsection 32(1). Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment carried.

A further amendment by Ms Ziemba to subsections 32(2), (4), (5) and (6): Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsections 32(2), (4), (5) and (6) as carried.

A further amendment by Ms Ziemba to subsection 32(9): Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 32(9) as carried.

We will now deal with section 32.

Shall section 32, as amended, carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47; the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 32, as amended, carried and become part of the bill.

We have an amendment to section 33 by Ms Ziemba. Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment to section 33 carry?

Carried. Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to section 33 carried.

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Shall section 33, as amended, carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 33 carried, as amended, and becomes part of the bill.

Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to section 34. Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to section 34 carried.

Shall section 34, as amended, carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 34 carried, as amended.

Shall section 35, without amendment, stand as part of the bill? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore, I declare section 35 to stand as part of the bill.

Ms Ziemba has moved a new section known as 35.1 and 35.2. Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment carry as part of the bill? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore, Ms Ziemba's amendment on a new section 35.1 and 35.2 will stand as part of the bill.

We now have an amendment to section 36, subsection 36(3) moved by Ms Ziemba. Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 36(3) carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 36(3) carried.

Shall section 36, as amended, carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 36, as amended, carried and becomes part of the bill.

Shall section 37 stand as part of the bill? Same vote?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I agree with that section, Mr Chairman.

The Second Deputy Chair: We will now have a vote.

All those in favour of section 37, please rise.

All those opposed to section 37?

The ayes are 48, the nays are 16. I declare section 37 carried and becomes part of the bill.

Shall section 38 become part of the bill? Same vote?

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, I'd like to vote in favour of that section.

The Second Deputy Chair: There's an amendment to subsection 38. Your Chair was not looking far enough ahead here.

Ms Ziemba has an amendment, subsection 38(1). Shall Ms Ziemba's amendment carry?

All those in favour of Ms Ziemba's amendment, subsection 38(1), please stand.

All those opposed to Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 38(1)?

The ayes are 57, the nays are 7. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to subsection 38(1) carried.

Shall section 38, as amended, carry and become part of the bill?

On a point of order, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): I'm just curious to know what the vote was when the member for Simcoe East voted with the government. I just want to know the numbers, please.

The Second Deputy Chair: The numbers were given and the member can refer back to Hansard, I'm sure.

Shall section 38, as amended, carry and become part of the bill?

All those in favour of section 38, please stand.

All those opposed to section 38, as amended?

The ayes are 61, the nays are 3. I therefore declare section 38, as amended, carried and part of the bill.

We are now moving to amendments to section 39.

Ms Ziemba has moved an amendment to subsection 39(1), clauses (a.1) and (d.1).

All those in favour of Ms Ziemba's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Ziemba's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment carried.

Ms Ziemba has a further amendment to clause 39(1)(e). All those in favour of Ms Ziemba's amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare Ms Ziemba's amendment to clause 39(1)(e) carried.

Shall section 39, as amended, carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 39 carried and becomes part of the bill.

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Shall sections 40 and 41 stand as part of the bill? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare sections 40 and 41 carried and part of the bill.

Shall the schedule and title stand as part of the bill? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare that the schedule and title become part of the bill and are carried.

Shall the bill be reported as amended?

All those in favour, please rise.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Chairman, a recorded vote, please.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are in committee of the whole and this is a recorded vote; we have been stacking.

All those opposed to reporting the bill?

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. Therefore the bill shall be reported as amended.

We are now dealing in committee of the whole with Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment. We have amendments to section 1.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Can we open the doors now?

The Second Deputy Chair: The doors will remain in voting mode, which is closed and locked.

We are now dealing with Bill 109, An Act respecting Consent to Treatment.

Ms Lankin has moved an amendment to subsection 1(1).

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 1(1)?

The ayes are 57, the nays are 7. I therefore declare Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 1(1) carried.

An amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 1(1).

All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

Ms Sullivan has a further amendment to subsection 1(1).

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

Shall section 1, as amended, of Bill 109 carry? Agreed? Same vote reversed.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare section 1, as amended, carried and part of Bill 109.

Shall sections 2 through 5 stand as part of Bill 109?

All those in favour of sections 2 through 5, please rise.

All those opposed to sections 2 through 5, please rise.

The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 2 through 5 carried and part of Bill 109.

We are now dealing with an amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 6(1).

All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to subsection 6(1) defeated.

Shall sections 6, 7 and 8 stand as part of the bill? Agreed? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I therefore declare—

Mr Sterling: Sorry, Mr Chair. No, we agreed that they should be part of the bill. We are voting against the amendments, but we are agreeing to the sections.

The Second Deputy Chair: Then we shall put the question to the House.

All those in favour of sections 6, 7 and 8, please rise.

All those opposed to sections 6, 7 and 8, please rise.

The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 6, 7 and 8 carried and they will stand as part of the bill.

We are now dealing with section 9, with a number of amendments. Ms Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 9(1).

All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to subsection 9(1) defeated.

A further amendment by Ms Sullivan, to subsections 9(2), (3).

All those in favour of this amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

A further amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 9(2). All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's amendment. Same vote.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to subsection 9(2) defeated.

A further amendment by Ms Sullivan, subsection 9(3). Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to subsection 9(3) defeated.

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A further amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 9(3).

All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's—same vote.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

An amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 9(4).

All those in favour of Ms Sullivan's amendment? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to subsection 9(4) defeated.

A second amendment by Ms Sullivan to subsection 9(4): Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Ms Sullivan's amendment defeated.

Shall section 9, as amended, carry?

All those in favour of section 9, as amended, please rise.

All those opposed to section 9, as amended, please stand.

The ayes are 54, the nays are 10. I therefore declare section 9, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 10 and 11 carry and become part of the bill?

All those in favour of sections 10 and 11, please rise.

All those opposed to sections 10 and 11, please rise.

The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 10 and 11 carry and become part of the bill.

We now move to section 12. We have an amendment by Ms Lankin to subsection 12(1). All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 12(1)?

All those in favour, please rise..

All those opposed to Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 12(1)?

The ayes are 57, the nays are 7. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment carried.

Shall section 12, as amended, carry?

All those in favour of section 12, as amended, please rise.

All those opposed to section 12, as amended, please rise.

The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare section 12, as amended, carried.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: When everybody says they agree when you ask the question, I suggest the vote is 64 to 0.

The Second Deputy Chair: I sometimes do hear a no. However, it's funny, it turns out the other way.

Mr Sterling: It's not coming from this area, is it?

The Second Deputy Chair: We move on. Section 13 we are now dealing with. We have an amendment by Ms Lankin to subsection 13(1).

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 13(1), please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 13(1) carried.

Ms Lankin has a further amendment to clause 13(2)(b). All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays 17. I therefore declare Ms Lankin's amendment to clause 13(2)(b) is carried.

Further amendment by Ms Lankin to paragraph 13(2)(c)4. All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 47, the nays are 17. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection, paragraph 13(2)(c)4 carried.

Shall section 13 as amended carry and become part of the bill? Agreed? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of section 13, as amended, please rise.

All those opposed to section 13, as amended, please rise.

The ayes are 54, the nays are 10. I therefore declare section 13, as amended, carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

Shall sections 14 to 18, inclusive, stand as part of the bill? Separate votes.

Shall section 14 carry and become part of the bill? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of section 14, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to section 14, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 63, the nays are 1. I therefore declare section 14 carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

Shall section 15 carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 63, the nays are 1. I declare section 15 carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

Shall section 16 carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 63, the nays are 1. I declare section 16 carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

Shall section 17 carry? Same vote? Agreed..

The ayes are 63, the nays are 1. I declare section 17 carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

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Shall section 18 carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 63, the nays are 1. I declare section 18 carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

We have an amendment by Mrs Sullivan to subsection 19(1.1).

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I therefore declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment defeated.

Shall section 19 carry? Same vote reversed?

Interjection: No, carried.

The Second Deputy Chair: Carried. The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare section 19 carried and it becomes part of the bill.

Shall sections 20, 21 and 22 carry as part of the bill? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 64, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 20, 21 and 22 carried and they become part of the bill.

We have amendments to section 23. Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 23(1).

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

All those opposed to Mrs Sullivan's amendment, please rise.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment to subsection 23(1) defeated.

Mrs Sullivan has a further amendment, to subsection 23(2).

The honourable member for Mississauga South on a point of order.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Point of order, Mr Chairman: I know recently, during private members' business on a Thursday morning, we discovered that we were able to leave the House between votes. I'm asking respectfully if that applies in these proceedings that we're in at this point in time.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are dealing with a bill and they are stacked votes, and the mode of the House is now in voting procedure, where the doors remain locked.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: I must remind members that the quicker we get through these, the quicker we will unlock the doors.

Mrs Sullivan has moved an amendment to subsection 23(2).

All those in favour of Mrs Sullivan's amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I declare Mrs Sullivan's amendment defeated.

We have a further amendment by Mr Sterling to subsection 23(10).

All those in favour? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 17, the nays are 47. I declare Mr Sterling's amendment to subsection 23(10) defeated.

Shall section 23 stand as part of the bill? Agreed? We have some noes.

All those in favour of section 23, please rise.

All those opposed to section 23, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 53, the nays are 11. I declare section 23 as carried and becoming part of the bill.

The honourable member for Bruce on a point of—

Mr Elston: Point of order, sir: I did not answer the bell to come and vote on this upcoming section. I wish to be excluded from the vote on this next section.

The Second Deputy Chair: The House is in voting mode.

Mr Elston: No, I answered to come to vote for the sections to this point, but I did not intend to vote or answer the bell for these others.

The Second Deputy Chair: The House is in voting mode and we cannot break the rules.

Mr Elston: No, no. You cannot close the door on us in between sections, sir. I answered the bell to come and vote on the sections which have already been called, but I did not answer the bell to come to vote on this section.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are still dealing with Bill—

Mr Elston: But you cannot, sir, close the doors on all of these sections if I did not intend ever to vote on this section. Sir, it's against my privilege for you to rule that I cannot leave between a vote called for one section and a vote called for a section I did not intend to vote on.

The Second Deputy Chair: The House is in voting mode.

Mr Elston: No, no. It's my privilege, sir, not to vote on a section. If I choose to, I only need to bring it to your attention before you call that, and I should be allowed to exit the building.

The Second Deputy Chair: Standing orders on stacked votes remain—

Mr Elston: There is no standing order on stacked votes, sir.

The Second Deputy Chair: Are you challenging the decision, sir?

Mr Elston: Well, you show me the standing order on stacked votes. The point is, sir, that I have the privilege of

not voting on a section, and I ask to be excluded from voting on this section.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: The practice of the Legislature—

Mr Elston: Mr Chairman, I refuse to vote on something that is going to be constitutionally challenged when I believe that it is contrary for us to be pushing people into having to take court cases into the Supreme Court.

Hon Mr Wildman: Well, then, you can vote against.

Mr Elston: No, no. I refuse to vote on the section, sir.

Hon Mr Wildman: You can't do that.

Mr Elston: I refuse to vote on the section, as is my right as a member.

The Second Deputy Chair: We must proceed with the vote.

Mr Elston: No, sir. I refuse to vote on the section, and I ask for my privileges as a member to be recognized, sir.

The Second Deputy Chair: You can therefore abstain, and the penalty for abstaining will be whatever occurs.

Mr Elston: The problem with abstaining is that I will not be allowed to vote on the following sections, sir, and that is not my intention. My intention, sir, is not to vote on this section, and I ask to be excluded. I did not ask to be excluded from the rest of the votes, but I do ask to be allowed to leave on this one. It is my right, sir, not to vote on sections if I believe it to be important so to do.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are proceeding with the vote, and the honourable member can do as he chooses. We have to proceed with the vote.

Mr Elston: You are forcing me then not to be able to vote on the rest of the sections. That is a violation of my privileges.

The Second Deputy Chair: The Chair is forcing no one to do anything.

Mr Elston: Yes, you are.

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The Second Deputy Chair: We are now dealing with section 24.

Mr Elston: I challenge the Chair.

The Second Deputy Chair: The Chair has been challenged. We will have to call the Speaker.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): The doors are locked. How's he going to get in here?

The Second Deputy Chair: The Speaker is on his way. I understand that, to accommodate a number of our colleagues here, we will unlock the doors for a few minutes.

Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury): On a point of order, Mr Chair: I think it's important, in that, if the doors are open—I would dearly love to go out and use the facilities.

Interjection.

Ms Murdock: No, I'm just concerned about the bill itself and whether it could be challenged later.

The Second Deputy Chair: As soon as the Speaker arrives we will probably have an official 10-minute break

for a decision. That will be coming from the Speaker. The Speaker, at the call of the Chair, will provide information to the members as to whether there is a bell, be it five minutes or longer. It will be in the hands of the Speaker.

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The committee requested a ruling of the Speaker.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order: I challenged the Chair, who had indicated that I do not have the privilege, as a member, of abstaining from a vote without risking being ejected from the chamber. Once the member is in the chamber it is impossible, as you know, not to vote.

I had asked prior to the next section, being section 24, which deals with prior consent and which unfortunately has not been fully debated in this chamber obviously—we really haven't had a chance to go through it, but I realize that there are tremendous judicial difficulties, at least possibly, coming out of the section's passage—I had asked to be allowed to exit the chamber because I'd answered the bell to attend to prior sections.

I do not wish to vote on section 24, and in fact I'm doing this as a way of gaining attention to its difficulty and potential problems that are going to be associated with its passage. I do not intend to leave the chamber for the rest of the evening but wish to continue voting after section 24.

It is, sir, the privilege of each member and every member to choose which sections to vote on and which sections not to vote on. The fact that the doors have been closed and I am not able to leave the chamber forces me to risk ejection from the chamber for the rest of the sitting, and I rather suspect it is not the intention of the standing orders to take from me my options, the options being to abstain, to vote for or to vote against. I choose, sir, in this case to abstain from voting and ask to be allowed to exit the chamber because I have done what I wish to do with the prior sections.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: I wholeheartedly concur with my colleague. I think that every member should be able to come and go with respect to different votes that are being taken in between those votes. The very least that should happen, I would submit, is that members should be able to leave between bills when the votes are stacked.

However, I concur with what the member for Bruce has just said. I think that in previous votes around here we have been able to leave between different sections of the bill if there are different votes being called, because there may be particular votes that I as a member do or do not want to participate in, or I may have some other reason for being absent. I think the member is quite correct.

Hon Mr Wildman: I would concur with my friend's comment that between bills the member should be able to leave when we're in a stacked vote or in a voting mode in the House, to use the Chair of committee of the whole's term. I would point out to you that on Thursday mornings, during private members' hour, it has been indicated to members that between the votes on the two matters before the House on deferred votes on those they can indeed leave.

However, it is my understanding that on agreement to stack, once the House begins to vote, members must

participate in the vote and the doors are closed and they must remain closed. I draw to your attention, and I can't remember the exact date this occurred, but a distinguished former member of the House, Eddie Sargent, who was well known for his understanding of the rules of the House, attempted at one point to abstain from a vote, and when he was unable to leave because the doors were closed, he vacated this chamber and went, I believe, to the gallery.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Up there.

Hon Mr Wildman: Yes, the gallery up here. You're right, Mr Speaker. At that time the Speaker ruled that Mr Sargent was out of order and had to participate in the vote. It was probably one of the only times in his whole career that Mr Sargent was out of order, but I do bring that ruling to your attention.

The Speaker: First, to the member for Bruce, I acknowledge his concern and indeed I also acknowledge his long-standing respect for the traditions of this House. To the member for Parry Sound and to the member for Algoma, I've listened to you very carefully. I realize that there is a difficulty here. I think that the intention is to allow the members an opportunity to be able to express their opinions with respect to each and every item that is brought before the House.

We will have a 10-minute recess and then we'll return. I'm sure I'll do my best to try to find a way to resolve this amicably.

The House recessed from 2046 to 2058.

Mr Bradley: I have a question for the Minister of Health. She is here.

Mr Mahoney: Is it question period?

The Speaker: No, it's not question period. We lose track of time, I realize.

To the member for Bruce, he has indeed identified quite frankly a difficulty which is not there in a number of legislatures, in a number of jurisdictions. The privilege of abstaining is one which is allowed in various jurisdictions but hasn't been here. I have a great deal of sympathy with the argument that the member puts forward, because indeed what the member's saying, that he should have the opportunity to vote on one measure and not on another, surely should be the right of every person who is elected to the assembly.

I must say that the Chair of the committee was correct in his interpretation of the rules, that the rules specify that if you're in the chamber you must vote. The member presents a dilemma. The rules specify that if you are in the chamber you must vote. Once called to the chamber, then all the questions that are put before the members must be voted upon. But the member wishes to vote on some measures and not on others. There is nothing in the rules which will allow us to do what the member wants.

I must say quite candidly to the member that I am searching to find a way to accommodate his wish, not just because it's his wish but because it is something that, it seems to me, is very fundamental to what a Parliament is about. The members have the opportunity to vote for or against on each measure that is brought before the assembly. The member for Bruce is not being allowed to do that.

Our standing rules are very clear and I am obliged to sustain the decision by the Chair.

The only out that I can find for the member is that if the House is willing to allow the member to vote on one measure and not another, then indeed that's what can happen. All I can say is, whether it's the member for Bruce or any other member of the assembly, surely that member should have the opportunity to vote on measure 1 but not on measure 2, and so on through the procedure so that there is a free expression of will by the members.

I must say, in conclusion, to the member that I appreciate, first, that he's brought it to my attention. Second, I realize he will be disappointed in the fact that I must support the ruling by the Chair.

The rules perhaps should be revisited, because I can tell the member that there are other jurisdictions in which members have the opportunity to abstain on certain measures within a bill and maintain the integrity of the chamber. Such is not the case in our Legislature.

I leave it to the House, that if it would allow the member for Bruce to abstain from one measure and vote on another, then indeed his conscience will be satisfied and the business of the House can proceed.

So I sustain the ruling of the Chair and return the business to the Chair.

Mr Eves: On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A point of order, the member for Parry Sound.

Mr Eves: Mr Speaker, I understand the ruling you've just made, but could you please then clarify whether or not members have the right to leave the chamber in between bills. I believe the member for Algoma, the Minister of Natural Resources, the member for Bruce and myself all seem to be in agreement on that, not that that makes it correct. As a matter of fact, it probably makes it incorrect, the fact that the three of us have chosen to agree.

I thought the example he pointed out was a very valid one. During private members' hour, for example, there may well be two votes back to back, yet members do have an opportunity to vote on each particular bill or each particular resolution.

Mr Elston: Just before you get into the ruling, sir, I would remind you that during private members' hour, as pointed out by my friend the member for Algoma, we do call the members but once for the vote on two items and we do allow an exit. So in that sense, this would certainly be well in keeping with that as a precedent.

The Speaker: I understand. The member for Bruce is absolutely correct with respect to private members' hour. To the member for Parry Sound, indeed he would be correct if the bills were separated. My understanding is that this is a special order of the House which puts together more than one bill, and hence as a package then, the House is obliged to deal with that as a package. I understand full well the member's concern and I share that concern, but it is a special order of the House and the only way in which you can effect a positive change for what you wish to do is by unanimous consent of the House.

All I would say, in conclusion, is that I would ask the House, with calmness, to take a look at that and allow the individual member the opportunity to vote on one measure and not on another, because I think that reflects a democratic will of the individual members who are elected to represent their constituents.

Mr Elston: Sir, may I point out one thing, not to take issue with you, but only to point out for the record that while the bills are combined in the sense that they are all before us in a period of time called committee of the whole House, which is restricted to two days, it was agreed unanimously, or at least it was consented to by the House leaders, that the bills not be dealt with together in that time period. In fact, the bills are being dealt with separately, although the time has run out on our even getting to the last three bills in the package of four. We dealt singly and debated solely Bill 74, which was the first matter we dealt with.

I only ask you to consider that in light of the fact that I know somebody at some stage is going to reflect back and I did not want you to think that in committee of the whole House we have debated anything but Bill 74. That's quite clear.

The Speaker: I understand what the member is saying. What he speaks of is an agreement which is not to the knowledge of the Chair, because it's not an order of the House. That always leaves the chair occupant in a bit of a dilemma, because the chair occupant is not aware of agreements but only of motions which have been adopted by the House.

Again, I come back and ask the House to consider very carefully its process to allow, at every opportunity, the minority voice.

Mrs Sullivan: On the same point, Mr Speaker: I'm going to ask you to clarify your instruction to the House that the House should consider itself the point of order placed by the member for Bruce, which was a considerably different point of order than that placed by the member for Parry Sound. The point of order placed by the member for Parry Sound dealt with timing and the right of members to leave the chamber between bills, which is in fact a convenience rather than an issue of privilege.

To the question of privilege that the member for Bruce addressed, you responded by suggesting to us that it was a reasonable point of privilege. Our orders didn't happen to deal with it and you suggested that the House should deal with it. Are you suggesting to us that the House should deal with it in committee? The reason I raise this is that there is a very legitimate issue of concern with this particular section of this bill, as there may well be in other pieces of legislation that deal with ethical or other issues.

In this case, there was no information with respect to this amendment, either in committee or in public hearings. The issue is one where information has come to us recently that indeed there may well be a constitutional challenge associated with it. I am asking you, though, because you said to us that the House should consider it, if you are asking us to consider it now.

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat. First, though I have attempted, in a spirit of generosity, to try to

be of assistance, I must draw the House's attention to the fact that I was summoned to the House to deal with a challenge to the Chair, with which I have dealt. I would entertain, lastly, the member for Algoma, very quickly.

Hon Mr Wildman: Mr Speaker, just in response to my friend the member for Parry Sound, it would seem to me that in this particular case there has been an agreement among the House leaders to deal with the three bills by a special order, that this is a particular situation. The House is supreme. If the House were to decide, by unanimous consent, to allow for a member to leave between bills, that could be done. But my understanding is that it would require unanimous consent, and that is the way we should proceed.

The Speaker: As I leave the chair, I commend the member for Algoma that perhaps he will be able to set a course whereby members can express their individual wishes and that will in fact be the wish of the House.

House in committee of the whole.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Bruce, on a point of order.

Mr Elston: Mr Chairman, now having had the order given by the Speaker, which says that no one may leave, what is our situation now that people have left? May I have your advice on that?

Hon Mr Wildman: Mr Chair, I recognize that the House is in fact supreme and the members of the House can make a decision by unanimous consent, but it is our view that during a vote, as you've said, when the House is in the mode for voting, members should not be able to come and go. Between bills, that's another matter and we could indeed provide unanimous consent, if that's the members' wish, in the House.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order: I think we have a real problem here. We had seven members in my caucus. We now have only one member, myself, who was here during those other votes. The member for Parry Sound was not here during the earlier votes.

Now, if in fact the ruling of the Speaker is that no one can leave, then no one should have left. People have left; therefore, the votes on the remaining sections of Bill 109—I believe that's the bill we're presently considering—are not going to be consistent in the total number of votes or the same members as on the previous sections. Therefore, we are out of order.

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The Second Deputy Chair: We may well be out of order. However, we do have to proceed and we have orders of the House to proceed till 12 of the clock. The Chair has attempted to accommodate members prior to the opening of the doors. I have not heard anyone request unanimous consent for a five-minute bell or something like that, so if indeed we don't have that, we will have to lock the doors and proceed.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, we have never had a situation that I know of in the last 15 years that I've been a member here where we have had to come back in committee of the whole House under a time allocation motion. The government has introduced at the last moment over

100 amendments to a bill. That's led to this problem. That's why we have the problem. Therefore, I don't think you can proceed. Is your ruling that you can proceed?

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes. We are proceeding simply because there was a challenge to the Chair, and the Chair at that point, to accommodate members of this Legislature, allowed the doors to be unlocked. We are now proceeding as if there was not a challenge to the decision.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, with respect, we don't have the same members here.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: Notwithstanding the generosity of the Chair—yourself, at that time—you could not predict whether or not there was going to be a challenge.

The Second Deputy Chair: We are in a position of having to proceed and as soon as we are back into a voting mode, the doors will be locked.

Hon Mr Wildman: Mr Chair, His Honour the Speaker, when he came in subsequent to the challenge, recessed the House for 10 minutes. Surely my friend from Carleton is not arguing that the members of the House should not have been able to leave during that recess, or that if they did they would be required to come back before we could proceed.

Mr Sterling: I'm arguing exactly that. If that is what the rules of this House were, then no one should have left this chamber, including myself.

The Second Deputy Chair: We will now proceed, and unless I hear a unanimous consent to have a five-minute bell, we will proceed in voting mode. I see no request for unanimous consent for a five-minute bell.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, I challenge your ruling on this matter.

The Second Deputy Chair: My ruling has been challenged, we will be calling on the Speaker.

The committee requested a ruling of the Speaker.

The Speaker: To the member for Carleton, the member should know that when in committee, we do not record the names of individuals. We certainly make a head count, but we do not record things.

The Chair was absolutely right. Having dealt with the challenge to the Chair, we then revert back to the committee and then we simply proceed. There is no way the Chair or anybody else can account for who may or may not be in the chamber. Since names are not recorded anyway, simply numbers, when we're in committee, it should be of little consequence.

I can tell the member that the Chair made the absolutely correct ruling on it. Indeed, perhaps now we can proceed with public business.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: You may talk about specific individuals who may or may not have been here, but there aren't the same numbers here any more. If your ruling is that there has to be consistency during all the votes, which is what your ruling was, that there has to be a total of 64 votes in this Legislature on each section of each bill, you're not going to get that on the remaining sections of Bill 109.

The Speaker: I appreciate the member for Carleton's interest in this, but he should recall that what happened is that a point of order was raised and the Chair ruled on it. That ruling was challenged. That prompts the Speaker to be here. During that time, of course, the doors are unlocked. Members will come and go. They come and go at will and no one is going to keep track of that. Therefore, the Chair cannot rule on who is here and who isn't here.

Having dealt with the procedural matter, then you go back to the business that's before the House, and at that point we will find out how many members are in favour and how many are opposed. That's the appropriate way to proceed. That's traditional and there's nothing wrong with it. The Chair in fact did absolutely the right thing.

2120

House in committee of the whole.

The Second Deputy Chair: I want to remind all members that we have to proceed now under voting mode. The doors will be locked, and I want to remind members that we must complete the vote regardless of the time. We're now proceeding. All members should be in their seats. We are resuming in voting mode.

Section 24: Ms Lankin has moved an amendment to section 24. Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Lankin's amendment carry? Agreed? No.

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to the amendment to section 24 by Ms Lankin?

We have an honourable member who has not voted. Would the honourable member please cast a nay or a yea.

Mr Murray J. Elston: Mr Chairman, I refuse.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member will therefore be recorded as a no vote.

Mr Elston: Mr Chair, I do not wish to be recorded as a no vote.

The Second Deputy Chair: Do we have unanimous consent for the honourable member for Bruce to abstain? No?

I will have no recourse, then, but to name the honourable member, because he is not conforming to the rules of the House. I therefore name the honourable member for Bruce, Mr Murray Elston.

Mr Elston left the chamber.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: I would like to remind the honourable member for Algoma-Manitoulin, please take your seat, sir.

We now have to renew the vote on the amended section 24 by Ms Lankin.

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's motion, please rise.

All those opposed to Ms Lankin's motion, please rise.

The ayes are 38; the nays are 8. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment carried.

Shall section 24, as amended, carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare section 24, as amended, carried.

On a point of order, the member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, under the standing orders, when a division of the House is called for, the bells are to be rung. We've now voted on, I believe, two or three matters without the bells being rung after the doors have been opened. I would like to know how we proceeded with the taking of those votes without a division bell.

The Second Deputy Chair: The bells rang at 5:45, and a challenge to the Chair came on two occasions. We are now proceeding with the division bell at 5:45 to deal with the motions as in the orders of the day.

Mr Sterling: Surely, Mr Chairman, the idea of the division bells is to notify members of the Legislature that votes are going to be taken and the doors are going to be locked if they don't get within those boundaries. Six of my colleagues who voted in this Legislature on previous votes left this Legislature. There was no notice to them that additional votes would be taken.

The Second Deputy Chair: A challenge did occur and the doors were open for a period of some 15 to 20 minutes when members were allowed to come and go. I am quite sure that members were aware that this indeed was occurring.

Mr Sterling: Mr Chairman, the fact of the matter is that you are calling divisions now with the door locked, without division bells having been rung to notify members who have left. So I would ask you, at least for the remaining votes, to ring the bells for 30 minutes.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. Division bells did ring, and we are in voting mode and will proceed.

Section 25: An amendment was moved by Mrs Sullivan to clause 25(a). Is it the pleasure of the House that we have the same vote in reverse? Agreed. Same vote reversed.

The ayes are 8, the nays are 38. I declare Ms Sullivan's amendment to clause 25(a) defeated.

Shall section 25 carry? Same vote reversed? Agreed.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I therefore declare section 25 carried.

Shall section 26 of the bill carry? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare section 26 as part of the bill.

The honourable member for Halton Centre.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: We had indicated that we would be supporting that section and that it should be carried. The same vote would not indicate that.

The Second Deputy Chair: I heard no negative when I asked for same vote.

We refer back to section 26. All those in favour of section 26, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to section 26?

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I declare section 26 as part of the bill and carried.

We move on to section 27. Ms Lankin has moved an amendment to section 27 FR.

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment? Same vote.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment carried.

2130

Shall section 27 carry as amended? Agreed? Same vote.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I declare section 27 carried, as amended.

Shall sections 28 and 29 carry and become part of the bill? Agreed? Same vote.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I declare sections 28 and 29 as part of the bill and carried.

Section 30 has an amendment by Ms Lankin, under subsection 30(1). Shall Ms Lankin's amendment carry? No?

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed to Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment carried.

Shall section 30 carry, as amended? Same vote.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare section 30 carried as amended, and it becomes part of the bill.

Ms Lankin has an amendment to section 31. Shall Ms Lankin's amendment to section 31 carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment carried.

Shall section 31 carry as amended? Same vote.

The ayes are 38, the nays are 8. I declare section 31, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 32 to 38, inclusive, carry? Agreed? We have no negatives?

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0, therefore I declare sections 32 to 38 carried and they become part of the bill.

Ms Lankin has an amendment to subsection 39(1). All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment to section 39? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 2. I declare Ms Lankin's amendment to subsection 39(1) carried.

Shall section 39 as amended, carry? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of section 39, as amended, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I declare section 39, as amended, carried and becoming part of the bill.

Shall sections 40 to 48, inclusive, carry?

The honourable Minister of Health.

Hon Ms Lankin: Sir, I wish to deal with section 44 separately.

The Second Deputy Chair: Shall sections 40, 41, 42 and 43 carry? Agreed? Same vote.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. Therefore I declare sections 40, 41, 42 and 43 carried.

Shall we deal with section 44? All those—

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I believe that the amendment as proposed by the minister is out of order. She may want to—

Hon Ms Lankin: There is no amendment.

Mrs Sullivan: There is no amendment? I have an amendment in my package. I apologize.

The Second Deputy Chair: It was ruled out of order originally, and we are now dealing with section 44 without amendments.

All those in favour of section 44? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of section 44 standing as part of the bill will please rise.

All those opposed to section 44 of the bill, please rise.

The ayes are 0, the nays are 46. I declare section 44 of the bill defeated and it will be struck from the bill.

We now deal with sections 45, 46, 47 and 48.

Hon Ms Lankin: Same vote reversed.

The Second Deputy Chair: Agreed? Same vote reversed.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 45, 46, 47 and 48 standing as part of the bill and carried.

We have an amendment by Ms Lankin to section 49. An amendment has been moved to clause 49(1)(j).

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment? Is it the pleasure of the House that Ms Lankin's amendment carry? No?

All those in favour of Ms Lankin's amendment, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 2. Therefore I declare Ms Lankin's amendment to clause 49(1)(j) as carried.

Shall section 49 as amended carry as part of the bill? Same vote? No?

All those in favour of section 49, as amended, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I therefore declare section 49, as amended, carried and part of the bill.

Shall sections 50 through 53, inclusive, stand as part of the bill? Same vote? Agreed.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I therefore declare sections 50, 51, 52 and 53 as part of the bill and carried.

Shall the schedule and title of the bill as shown carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 46, the nays are 0. I therefore declare the schedule and title of the bill carried.

Shall the bill be reported to the House, as amended? Agreed.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I'd like to ask for unanimous consent of the House for a 10-minute recess before proceeding with Bill 108.

The Second Deputy Chair: Do we have unanimous consent? Agreed.

Shall the House reconvene without a division bell? Agreed.

This House stands adjourned for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 2141 and resumed at 2151.

The Second Deputy Chair: We will now ask the Sergeant to have the House back in voting mode with locked doors. Would the members please take their seats.

We are now dealing with Bill 108, An Act to provide for the making of Decisions on behalf of Adults concerning the Management of their Property and concerning their Personal Care.

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Chair: I would like to indicate that my total caucus will be voting against all of the amendments put forward by the government but that we will be voting in favour of the sections as they're carried. Therefore, if I can expedite the process by doing that, I would invite other members of the Legislature to do so as well.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chairman: We will be voting with the government on the amendments that are proposed, as they are technical amendments to the subsections, and therefore we'll be voting with the government on all the sections of this bill.

The Second Deputy Chair: Pursuant to those clarifications, shall sections 1 to 6 of Bill 108 stand without amendments as part of the bill?

All those in favour, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. Therefore, sections 1 through 6 shall stand as part of Bill 108 without amendments.

An amendment to subsection 7(5), moved by Mr Hampton. All those in favour of Mr Hampton's motion, please rise. Same vote? No?

All those in favour of Mr Hampton's motion, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise and remain standing.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I therefore declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 7(5) carried.

Shall section 7, as amended, carry? Agreed. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Shall sections 8 through 11 carry as unamended? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. Therefore, I declare sections 8 through 11 carried and part of the bill.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to subclause 12(1)(a)(i). Shall Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subclause 12(1)(a)(i) carried.

Shall section 12 of the bill, as amended, carry? Same vote plus one.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 12, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 stand as part of the bill? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. Therefore, I declare those sections as standing part of the bill.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 24: clause 24(5)(a) FR. Shall Mr Hampton's amendment to section 24 carry? Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I therefore declare Mr Hampton's amendment to clause 24(5)(a) FR carried.

Shall section 24 of the bill, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote plus one.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 24 of the bill, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 25 through 36 inclusive carry? Same vote plus one.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 37: subsection 37(2). Shall Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 37(2) carry? Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 37(2) carried.

Shall section 37 of the bill carry as amended? Agreed. Same vote plus one? Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 37, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 38 to 41, inclusive, carry as part of the bill? Same vote?

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 42, shown as clause 42(7)(d). Mr Hampton has moved this amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to section 42 carried.

2200

Shall section 42, as amended, carry? Same vote plus one. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 42 carried and becomes part of the bill, as amended.

Sections 43 to section 52, inclusive: Is the pleasure of the House that these sections carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare sections 43 to 52, inclusive, carried.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 53, shown as subclause 53(1)(a)(i). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment to section 53 carry? Agreed. Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Shall section 53, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote plus one.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 53, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 54, 55 and 56 carry as part of the bill? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare sections 54, 55 and 56 carried and become part of the bill.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 57, shown as clause 57(3)(a). All those in favour of Mr Hampton's amendment? Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Agreed. Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Shall section 57 of the bill, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote plus one.

Mr Sterling: On a point of clarification, Mr Chair: When you say the same vote plus one, shouldn't that be then 44 to 2?

The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you.

Shall sections 58 through 82, inclusive, carry? Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has an amendment to section 83, known as subsection 83(3). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment to section 83 carry? Agreed? Same vote minus one.

The ayes are 43, the nays are 1. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to section 83 carried.

Shall section 83, as amended, carry? Same vote plus one. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 83, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 84 through 89, inclusive, carry and be part of the bill? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare sections 84 through 89 become part of the bill.

Shall section 90 of the bill carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 90 as part of the bill and carried.

We have a new section 90.1 by Mr Hampton. Mr Hampton has moved an addition to section 90 known as 90.1. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment, section 90.1 carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Shall section 90.1 carry and be part of the bill? Same vote. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 90.1, as amended, carried.

Shall sections 91 and 92 carry and be part of the bill without amendments? Same vote. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare sections 91 and 92 as part of the bill and carried.

Shall the schedule and the title of the bill carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the schedule and title of the bill carried.

Shall the bill be reported as amended? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. The bill shall be reported as amended.

We have one more bill before us in this series. It is Bill 110, An Act to amend certain Statutes of Ontario consequent upon the enactment of the Advocacy Act, 1992, the Consent to Treatment Act, 1992 and the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992.

Hon Ms Lankin: Just to seek clarification from the members opposite, they were helpful at the beginning of voting on Bill 108 on indicating intentions. My understanding with respect to Bill 110 is that all amendments that will be considered are government amendments. I don't believe there are motions from either the Liberals or the Conservative Party. If they are voting in a consistent manner on all amendments, it may be of assistance to the table to know that. We might be able to proceed in an expeditious manner through the amendments and the bill.

The Second Deputy Chair: Shall sections 1 through 6, inclusive, carry without amendments as part of Bill 110?

All those in favour of those sections, please rise and remain standing.

All those opposed, please rise.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. Therefore, sections 1 through 6 shall become part of the bill and are therefore carried.

Mr Sterling: To assist other members who may not want to be involved in the next debate, notwithstanding

my objection to not having an opportunity to deal with the amendments on other bills and my reason for not voting for those amendments, with regard to this bill the amendments are following the former amendments and therefore I'm willing to indicate my support for the amendments and the carried sections. Therefore, it may aid and assist in passing all the amendments to Bill 110 and its sections.

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The Second Deputy Chair: Thank you. We now move into section 7, and we have amendments.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 7(2). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment to section 7 carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 7(4). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 7(4) carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 7(5). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Agreed. Same vote. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 7(5) carried.

Shall section 7, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 7, as amended, carried and part of the bill.

Shall sections 8 to 19, inclusive, carry and become part of the bill? Is it the pleasure of the House that these sections carry? Same vote. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. Therefore, I declare sections 8 through 19, inclusive, as part of the bill and carried.

Section 20 has a number of amendments.

Mr Hampton moves an amendment to subsection 20(8). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Agreed. Same vote. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton moves an amendment to subsection 20(9). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 20(9) carried.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to subsection 20(11.1). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote. Agreed. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the amendment carried.

Mr Hampton moves another amendment, to subsection 20(12.1). Is it the pleasure of the House? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment to subsection 20(15.1). Same vote. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(16). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 20(16) carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(17). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 20(17) carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(21), subsection 38(1), MHA. Same vote. Agreed.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(21), subsection 38(3), MHA. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(21), subsection 38(5), MHA. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(22.1). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsections 20(24), (24.1), (24.2). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(34). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(38). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(46). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(47). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(48). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(50). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(51). Is it the pleasure—yes, it's the pleasure of the House. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(52). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's—

Mrs Sullivan: Same vote.

The Second Deputy Chair: Yes, the same vote. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 20(54). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Mr Hampton has a final amendment, to subsection 20(55). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

Is it the pleasure of the House that section 20, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 20, as amended, carried, and it becomes part of the bill.

Section 21, Mr Hampton has an amendment to subsection 21(2). Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment carried.

A further amendment by Mr Hampton to subsection 21(4): Is it the pleasure of the House—

Mrs Sullivan: Same vote.

The Second Deputy Chair: Same vote. The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment to subsection 21(4) carried.

Mr Hampton has a further amendment, to subsection 21(5). Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

Is it the pleasure of the House that section 21, as amended, carry? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 21, as amended, to be part of the bill and carried.

Does section 22, without amendments, stand as part of the bill? Agreed. Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

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We now have an appendix and a new amendment shown as 22.1, moved by Mr Hampton. Is it the pleasure of the House? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare Mr Hampton's amendment, an addition to section 22.1, carried.

Shall section 22, as amended, carry as part of the bill? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

I declare section 22, as amended, carried and part of the bill.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Mrs Deborah Deller): It's 22.1.

The Second Deputy Chair: We've just done—

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: It wasn't 22, as amended.

The Second Deputy Chair: The member for Halton Centre.

Mrs Sullivan: My understanding is that the Attorney General presented a motion as subsection 22.1. That motion hasn't been circulated.

The Second Deputy Chair: It's the table's understanding that it had been circulated. Does the honourable member for Halton Centre want a bit of time to study the addition to section 22—Minister of Health?

Hon Ms Lankin: Mr Chair, if it's any assistance, I can indicate that this new section 22.1, which we believed had been circulated and had been sent with other packages of materials, simply extends the same protections with respect to freedom of information and protection to the Municipal Act.

Mrs Sullivan: On a point of order, Mr Chair: We have not been allowed to debate any of the amendments passed—section 29 of Bill 74. We cannot allow debate on an amendment that's presented now in the middle of a vote when the amendment has in fact not even reached at least one of the opposition parties. We don't need the explanation, clearly, when the government wouldn't allow us to explain our own amendments that were being put forward.

The Second Deputy Chair: Order. Section 22.1 is included in the bill. On time allocation there are times when this does occur.

We proceed with the vote on the different sections.

Shall sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 carry without amendments? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 carried.

Mr Hampton has moved an amendment to section 27. Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Hampton's amendment to section 27 carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0.

I declare—

Mr Sterling: On a point of order, Mr Chair: I've had amendments given to me up to section 20. All of these amendments have never been given to me.

Interjection.

Mr Sterling: No. I don't have section 27.

The Second Deputy Chair: On a point of order, the honourable member for Halton Centre.

Mrs Sullivan: I think that what's occurred here is that amendments have come to us for discussion at one point and then have been altered after discussion. I have an amendment to section 27, but in the package I received, which was the package which was to be the official package, there was no amendment to the previous section, which I raised. The member for Carleton clearly has a different package which the Attorney General has made available to him, which is the package that finally is being dealt with before the House.

The Second Deputy Chair: It is my understanding that the Deputy Chair of the committee of the whole earlier today read all of these amendments into the record, into Hansard.

We are now proceeding with section 27, as amended. Is it the pleasure of the House that section 27, as amended, carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 27, as amended, to stand as part of the bill and carried.

Shall section 28, without amendments, carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare section 28 of the bill carried.

Shall the schedule and title of the bill carry? Same vote.

The ayes are 44, the nays are 0. I declare the schedule and title of the bill to carry and be part of the bill.

Shall Bill 110, as amended, be reported? Agreed.

Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines): Mr Chair, I move that the committee rise and report.

The Second Deputy Chair: Miss Martel has moved that the committee rise and report. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

All those in favour of Miss Martel's motion, please rise and remain standing until recognized by the Clerk.

All those opposed to Miss Martel's motion, please rise and remain standing until recognized.

Interjections.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member for Carleton must vote in the affirmative or the negative.

Mr Sterling: But, Mr Chairman, I understand the only way I can get out of this place is if I get thrown out. Is that correct? I'll vote in the affirmative, Mr Chairman.

The Second Deputy Chair: The honourable member is voting in the affirmative.

The ayes are 39, the nays are 5. I declare Miss Martel's motion carried.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): The committee of the whole House begs to report four bills, with amendments, and asks for leave to sit again. Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed.

LONG TERM CARE
STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS
EN CE QUI CONCERNE
LES SOINS DE LONGUE DURÉE

Ms Lankin moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 101, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Long Term Care / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui concerne les soins de longue durée.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the minister have any opening comments?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I'm pleased to bring forth for second reading the Long Term Care Statute Law Amendment Act. It's An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Long Term Care.

As I indicated in my statement to the Legislature on November 26, 1992, this government is embarking on a major restructuring of long-term care facilities and community-based services. The central objective of our plan is to strengthen community services to ensure that elderly persons, adults with physical disabilities and those who

need health care at home receive the services they need at home whenever possible.

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However, we also must ensure that quality residential services are available to elderly persons whose needs can no longer be met at home or in alternative community settings. To do that, long-standing inequities in funding policies, resident payment schemes and access to services in nursing homes and charitable and municipal homes for the aged must be corrected. Of paramount importance, we must strengthen our ability to ensure that quality of care and services and financial accountability are achieved.

The honourable members will know that the problems within the current facility service system have been recognized by past ministers of Community and Social Services, ministers of Health and provincial governments and addressed in this House many times. Today Bill 101 represents our collective opportunity to address these problems and move the facility service sector into the 21st century.

The amendments to the Nursing Homes Act, the Charitable Institutions Act and the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act will accomplish several objectives: first, a consistent, more equitable method of funding all three types of homes; second, a fair, consistent resident payment policy, with residents charged for accommodation, that's room and board, only; third, coordinated access to services and uniform eligibility criteria; and fourth, more effective quality assurance and enhanced accountability to residents, their families and to government.

First, the amendments will enable us to meet our objective of establishing a consistent and more equitable method for funding nursing homes and charitable and municipal homes for the aged. At present these three types of homes are funded through different arrangements with the province even though over time, as the residents have aged, their needs may be virtually identical regardless of which kind of home they may be in or whether they're in a residential or an extended care bed.

The current funding methods will be replaced by the amendments proposed here and will be replaced by a levels of care funding scheme which bases funding levels in large part on the actual care requirements of residents. It's an important move away from the unfair and discriminatory per diem and differential per diem system that has been in place.

On an annual basis, a levels of care classification survey will be undertaken to collect information on the needs of and the services received by each resident, with a focus on nursing and personal care needs and services. The results of the annual survey will provide a basis for determining how much funding each facility is to receive. Since the classification survey must be carried out on an annual basis, the changing needs of the residents will be captured and funding allocations adjusted accordingly. The levels of care classification scheme will replace the current extended care and residential care levels of service. Separate amounts will be allocated to all facilities to assist with programming and accommodation costs.

The second objective is to create a fair and consistent approach to resident payments, which will be based on

accommodation costs only. There are individuals who are in extended care who are not required to pay for their nursing care. However, individuals in residential care, even though it's provided in a charitable and municipal home for the aged, are required to pay up to the full cost of their care and accommodation even though their needs may be as great as those of a person in extended care.

I want to stress here that the amendments will eliminate this inequity and establish a fair policy for charging residents for accommodation, for room and board costs only. That means that no resident will any longer pay for personal care or nursing care services, and that's an important differentiation from the present system as well.

Each person's charge will be based on his ability to pay, as determined by a simple income test. If a person is receiving a guaranteed income supplement from the federal government, he has limited ability to pay. Therefore, if the person indicates that he cannot pay the full per diem amount for accommodation, the charge would be reduced or eliminated, based on the amount of the guaranteed income supplement he receives. No person eligible for placement in a home would be refused placement on the basis of inability to pay.

In addition, the amendments establish a scheme for ensuring that homes do not charge excessive amounts for accommodation or for the extra services that may be requested by a resident, such as hairdressing. Homes will be prohibited from charging for services where no charges are allowed. If a resident is overcharged or charged for services for which no charge is permitted, under the amendments the province will have the authority to recover the excess charges from the home and return the money to the resident who was overcharged.

Third, these amendments will enable us to meet our objective of establishing a province-wide system for coordinating and managing access to facility services. The fundamental purpose of instituting a system for coordinating access is twofold: first, to ensure that all community service options have been explored and that a person's needs can be met only by entering a facility and, second, to ensure that facility services are available to those who need them most. A uniform set of eligibility criteria and guidelines for admission decisions will apply to all homes.

Fourth, the amendments will enable us to meet our objective of increasing accountability to ensure that services are of the highest quality possible and that provincial funds are spent appropriately on care and services for residents.

An increase in accountability is supported by eight components. Those eight components are as follows: a service agreement between the province and the home; a plan of care that must be developed by the home for each resident who has been admitted; a quality assurance plan that must be developed and implemented by the home; enhanced standards and criteria for care and services; enhanced financial reporting requirements; improved information sharing with residents, their families and representatives and staff of the home; improved powers of inspection for all homes to monitor and assess compliance

with the act, the regulations and the service agreements; and sanctions for non-compliance.

I'm confident that all members of the House will recognize the value of adopting these facility reforms as expeditiously as possible to ensure that elderly persons in facilities receive the quality care and services they deserve.

Turning to the community services sector, the amendments include a major new thrust in the area of support for independent living for adults with physical disabilities and other disabled persons. For many years, adults with physical disabilities have been indicating their desire to gain more control over the services they require and to have the services tailored to their individual needs rather than having to fit into fixed service models.

An amendment to the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act, which is an enabling provision, will enable the minister to provide funds directly to eligible disabled persons 16 years of age and over who wish to self-manage their own services. The self-management model of service is designed to maximize individual dignity, independence and control over one's own life.

The amendments will also enable the minister to make payments to parents or service providers on behalf of persons with other types of disabilities to assist them in obtaining necessary services. Grants would be subject to terms, conditions and accountability requirements prescribed in regulations.

I'm sure that all members of the House would agree that we can wait no longer to correct the long-standing deficiencies in the facilities sector. I fully expect to hear that from the members opposite. I know that they have over the years supported moving in this direction. I am equally confident that all members will agree that the time to expand independent living opportunities for disabled persons is now as well.

Bill 101 is our opportunity to take positive and progressive steps together to make a difference in the lives of elderly persons and adults with disabilities. I look forward to the comments of my colleagues in the Legislature, to the concerns that they may raise, to having a debate and dialogue about these provisions and to moving forward supporting this much-needed change to legislation.

The Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Is it a two-minute operation now? Are we allowed two minutes to respond?

The Speaker: Two minutes, questions and/or comments.

Mr Bradley: The one concern I would like to express, among many about this, because it has been a long-awaited matter—I'm not going to complain about the CAT scanner, because we have that now. We have a second CAT scanner in the Niagara Peninsula. I can't complain about the renal dialysis unit, because a renal dialysis unit has now been approved. So I'm looking for some other matters to discuss.

I must say it took a long time to get those, and naturally all of us are very pleased. We had other things that came when we were in power. It wasn't a big deal. We

wouldn't even have had to make a big announcement when we were in power because it just routinely happened, almost monthly, that these matters were being taken care of.

But I do want to express concern. I used to follow the NDP very carefully when it was the CCF. I used to read Hansard of the federal House of Commons and once in a while I would sit in the gallery here and watch what was going on. I used to really admire the NDP back in the days when they were opposed to means tests. They almost spat the words out when they said "means tests." I believed that the members of the CCF always thought it was a "mean test" and not a "means test."

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I become very concerned when people have to declare their means—in other words, it's their income in this case—before they are able to determine just how much they're going to be paying in one of the long-term care facilities. I know there are many people out there who are concerned as well that they can go up by almost \$11 a day in terms of their payments. These are often people who have saved every last penny they have and now find that because they happen to be unfortunate enough to be confined to a facility because of their health, they're going to be forced by the government to be involved in a significant increase in the amount of money they have to pay on a daily basis.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a number of concerns about Bill 101. When we're talking about long-term care, it encompasses a full range of ages and needs, and I think I'm most particularly concerned because I don't see anywhere in this bill that the government is really addressing the needs for long-term care of those people with developmental disabilities.

It seems that Bill 101 is explicitly for people with physical disabilities and illnesses, and although we've been promised that there's a list of more areas to be addressed and more areas that are coming, on the list that I've looked at I still see a big gap for people with developmental disabilities.

This is a very big concern not only because it's one of my shadow cabinet portfolios but because I personally feel very strongly for these particularly challenged individuals. I hope that at some time the minister will be able to tell us what her plans are for that particular group of people.

I also think we have to recognize that long-term care does involve children and that children are not just small adults. They have to have special treatment opportunities.

It's very difficult for me to tell you all my concerns in two minutes, but a lot of them revolve around that particular subject area.

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I don't think there's been a piece of legislation that's been more awaited than the long-term care. I think everywhere I go, every single day, people ask me when I thought it was coming. It is unfortunate that at this time of the night we're beginning a very important debate that affects people's lives.

The legislation that is presented tonight is extremely nebulous. It lacks many details, it lacks time lines, and in the opinion of many people who have spoken to me in the

last couple of days, it lacks real commitment. Again, we have a whole lot of nice words. We have monstrous decisions on people's lives being left in the position of, "We're going to deal with those in regulations." We have new positions in the community and people have no idea what the criteria for these positions will be. They don't know the community they will cover, and the people who have talked to me in the health care field in the last couple of days indicate to me, "My goodness, I've got more questions than I had last January."

We're promised a consultation paper in January and we're promised more directions and more guidelines, but what we're worried about is, will the people of this province have an ability to respond? We're hoping this government will agree to putting this piece of legislation out to committee. We certainly feel that the district health councils are being told to get up and get started. They're not being given very much direction but, "Get moving, boys," and people are hesitant.

Hon Ms Lankin: I'd never say, "Get moving, boys."

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): You'd say, "Get moving, ladies and gentlemen," I suppose, or something like that.

This is actually rather interesting, to be starting a debate. People may think they're watching a replay here. They flip on the parliamentary channel about this time at night just before they go to the 11 o'clock news.

Hon Ms Lankin: No, it's because they see you up on your feet again.

Mr Mahoney: Well, often it is. My mother-in-law, Edna—hi, Edna—watches quite often to see if her son-in-law's got something brilliant to say. Sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't.

[Laughter]

Mr Mahoney: Stop laughing. I think people should know that this is live, it's a quarter to 11 on Wednesday evening and we're beginning to debate, if you can imagine, one of the most important and serious pieces of legislation this government will ever introduce. I find it really rather incredible that having gone through a full day, the government House leader is unable to plan the agenda of this place so that we can deal with this properly, when everyone's fresh, not sitting around here with their ties undone and rubbing their eyes. I am, too; it's a little tiring.

But we really should be addressing issues of very serious concern to the people who are concerned about long-term health care in this province. We have a government that has just recently announced that it's transferring a mystical 2% in transfer payments, and yet I phoned up the hospitals in my community, two of them, the Mississauga and the Credit Valley, and said, "How much are you expecting, folks?" Guess-what? Nothing. They're not expecting anything. It's a trick.

Hon Ms Lankin: Oh, tell them they're wrong.

Mr Mahoney: No, they're not wrong.

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): Dead wrong.

Hon Ms Lankin: Absolutely.

Mr Mahoney: Boy, I'll tell you what: Show us the cancelled cheque. They're not wrong. They're getting nothing. This Health minister announces wonderful transfer payments to the hospitals and then—

Hon Ms Lankin: That was the Treasurer.

Mr Mahoney: —it was the Treasurer—and then takes it away. It's trickery, but of course we know this government is full of tricks. We know that.

The Speaker: The minister has up to two minutes to respond.

Hon Ms Lankin: I will very quickly try and touch on all the points that were raised by the members opposite. I appreciate their comments. I know that it is the beginning of debate and that with time people will have a greater understanding of the bill that's before us.

I say to the member for Mississauga South that she raises an important issue with respect to persons with developmental disabilities, and I should indicate to her that from the very beginning the target client group for long-term care redirection was seniors and persons with physical disabilities. That's not to say that there isn't a need for integration of services and a more continuing care approach for other clients of health and social services—there is—but this initiative is specifically with respect to those target groups.

I say to the member for Ottawa-Rideau that the amendments before us are only one very small part—important, but very small—of the long-term care redirection. It's the part that deals with fixing inequities in funding and payment provisions within nursing homes and homes for the aged. The other sorts of community initiatives are not legislatively based. They don't require that kind of change. We will be, in phase 2 of this next year, coming forward with more comprehensive, overriding legislation to establish a legislative base to the comprehensive multiservice agencies that I spoke about. That document I think is something that people can respond to in January.

May I say to the member for St Catharines that I find his comments quite odd. Of course we're not talking about a means test which include assets; we're talking about an income test, simply administered, much fairer than the system we have now where, irrespective of your income, you may pay as high as \$90 a day. He talks about someone, an elderly person who has years of savings which would now be tapped. That's exactly what we won't be doing. We're not looking at assets; we're looking at income, and that income will be as is guaranteed through the guaranteed income supplement. Those people who have an inability to pay will not be asked to pay.

The Speaker: Is there further debate?

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Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): In addressing Bill 101, as we are beginning to do this evening at a substantially late hour for most people who will be concerned with the content of this bill, we have to address many of the other issues associated with the entire question of delivery of long-term care reform. As we do that, I'd just like to read into the record statements that have

been made in this place at another time and with another government, discussing long-term care reform.

This statement was made on December 6, 1989, by then-Minister of Community and Social Services, Charles Beer.

He said, "The reform is designed to maintain the independence of Ontario's seniors and people with physical disabilities, support their family care givers and strengthen the ability of communities to plan and manage responsive services."

He said, "We have found that there is real support for reform among our clients, their families and service providers, and an eagerness to take part in the reform process. We have heard, particularly from those with disabilities, that people want to maintain their independence and have more control over the services they require."

He said, "First, we will create new service access agencies that will simplify both the process of finding appropriate in-home services and the process of having someone admitted to a long-term care facility."

He said: "Second, we will introduce a new funding system for all homes for the aged and nursing homes. Under the new system, payments will vary, depending on the level of care required by residents in the home."

"Third, to avoid administrative confusion and duplication, the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services are establishing a single, interministry structure—"

Mr Mahoney: On a point of order.

The Speaker: A point of order, the member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, considering the hour, I think it only fair that there be a quorum present to listen to the debate by my party's critic.

The Speaker: Would the Clerk check for a quorum?

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees (Mrs Deborah Deller): Mr Speaker, a quorum is not present.

The Speaker: Would you call in the members. Five-minute bell.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: A quorum is present, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A quorum is present, and the member for Halton Centre may resume her speech.

Mrs Sullivan: The then minister went on to say: "Third, to avoid administrative confusion and duplication, the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services are establishing a single interministry structure to manage the reformed long-term care system, both provincially and at the local level. Already we have appointed an assistant deputy minister of community services who reports jointly to my ministry and the Ministry of Health."

"Fourth, we will develop a fully integrated in-home support program for seniors and disabled people. This new program will provide a wide array of services to assist people to be independent in their homes."

He said, "Existing services, such as the Ministry of Health's home care program and my ministry's integrated homemaker program, will be brought together as the core

of a new consolidated in-home support program. As a result, services will be available with fewer barriers between agencies, ministries and professions.

"We shall increase provincial support for many in-home services, such as attendant care, in-home respite and in-home nursing care. There will also be further improvements in support for the lowest-paid workers to add to the \$28.9 million we have already provided to improve the wages of homemakers."

"Finally, home support services run by community agencies, such as Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting, will be expanded. We will develop a more complete range of services throughout the province, looking towards greater multicultural involvement."

The then minister, Charles Beer, went on to say, "We will be ready to begin implementing changes in some communities by early fall of 1990. We are also preparing long-term care legislation for presentation to the House at the same time."

The then Minister of Community and Social Services, Charles Beer, was prepared in 1990 to present to the House a bill that is not unlike what we have received today from the Minister of Health, two years later, without a substantial difference in approach. Admittedly, the election intervened and we know well that the entire consultation period had not been completed. But did it take two years for the completion of that consultation phase? The only real thing that has changed in terms of this government and the statements that were made in 1989 is that the shift in the carriage of long-term care reform has been from one minister to another minister. That's a significant change.

Admittedly, over the period of time of the consultation and from the period of time when Mr Sweeney, the Minister of Community and Social Services, first introduced the concept of long-term care reform to the House, there has been substantial new information that has come forward, not the least of which is a questioning of some of the assumptions which were made earlier and which I believe would have been questioned during the previous government's approach to long-term care. One of those assumptions is that the Alberta patient classification model would work holus-bolus in Ontario.

There have been substantial interventions that I think are worth listening to with respect to the interpretation of that decision. That commentary had begun to come forward during the period of time of the previous government, and the patient classification system is certainly a major part of Bill 101.

During the course of my remarks on Bill 101 and the long-term care issues that are associated with it, I would like to return to that particular issue. Certainly, the minister has spoken about the need for a service continuum. We absolutely concur with that. Unfortunately, what we don't see is the continuum being put in place or the facilities for the continuum being put in place. We believe the continuum should include acute and other long-term care services. Chronic care services should be an integral part of the decision-making associated with long-term care reform. We do not have now, and will not have until at least

January, the report with respect to chronic care services in the province.

We believe there should be a balanced model for long-term care and that model should include diagnostic, residential treatment services and support, and other support services.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I'm sorry to do this, but this is really annoying. At this hour of the night, again we are without a quorum. This government doesn't want to listen to these arguments. Why don't we just adjourn this place and we'll all go home?

The Speaker: Will the clerk count for a quorum, please.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: Mr Speaker, a quorum is not present.

The Speaker: Please call in the members. Five-minute bell.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: Quorum is present, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The member for Halton Centre may resume her remarks.

2300

Mrs Sullivan: Our view is that the approach to long-term care reform must include accountability and governance, and there are certainly, in Bill 101, some steps towards that. Throughout the long-term care reform system, however, those issues have not been particularly addressed, and during the course of my remarks I'd also like to take another look at the district health councils and their role. The district health councils, as you know, were set up as advisory bodies to the Minister of Health; I believe it's the Ministry of Health Act that governs them.

Over a period of time, not limited to this government, but over a period of time, increasing responsibilities have been placed on the district health councils which are, as you know, volunteer bodies. We are asking those volunteer bodies to be health planners. One assumes, and indeed I hope to see a response from the Minister of Health, that ultimately it's the Minister of Health's intention that those district health councils will become decision-making bodies and may be responsible for a funding envelope.

Clearly that impression is on the ground around the province, and I think that not only members of the district health councils but other people in the health care professions and in the consumer organizations deserve a more complete exposition of where the minister sees the district health councils ending up in terms of decision-making on long-term care reform.

I want to raise an issue that is particularly included in Bill 101, amendments to the Community and Social Services Act, that addresses issues with respect to disabled people. Disabled networks, advocacy groups for the disabled, organizations such as PUSH and others have indicated very strongly to the previous government and to this government that there is a difference between the needs of the young disabled and the needs of seniors. Those needs, not

only from a care point of view but also a psychological point of view, are not only related to age.

You will recall that in reintroducing Mr Beer's remarks, he noted three years ago that he intended to introduce a system as part of the long-term care reform that would provide a fully developed, in-home support program for seniors and disabled, which in addition to that would enable disabled people themselves to manage their own resources and contract with service providers for services they believed that they required and indeed did require and to ensure that those service providers were selected by the disabled people themselves. That was very much a part of the old program.

In the estimates process this year we specifically asked the Minister of Health if she concurred with that approach. She indicated that although it was going to be called by a different word—now it's going to be direct funding; the word with our minister was a different one—that it was very much a part of the approach of the government and, further, that a pilot project was going to be undertaken in the autumn of this year to address the issues associated with the direct funding program. Individualized funding, we believe, increases the independence of the disabled by enabling them to manage their own resources in a way that most effectively meets their needs.

None the less, we now understand that the pilot project never took place, that indeed while this legislative change is being made, it's being made in a vacuum without a pilot project having been undertaken, as the minister indicated to us in estimates that it would, and that in fact there may well be, as a result of a pilot project, essential items that are left out of the legislative changes which are proposed in Bill 101.

There are many other areas that I wish to address as we proceed in the debate on Bill 101. I believe, however, that people who are most concerned with this bill would appreciate being advised of the debate among members at a different period of time of the day. I therefore move the adjournment of the House.

The Speaker: The member for Halton Centre has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members. There will be a 30-minute bell.

The division bells rang from 2306 to 2336.

The Speaker: Mrs Sullivan has moved the adjournment of the House.

All those in favour of her motion will please rise.

All those opposed to her motion will please rise all at once and remain standing until counted.

You may be seated.

Clerk of the House (Mr Claude L. DesRosiers): The ayes are 8, the nays 32.

The Speaker: The ayes being 8 and the nays 32, I declare the motion lost, and the member for Halton Centre may resume her remarks.

Mrs Marland: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: It is 25 minutes before midnight on the clock, and I have sat in this House all day anticipating the opportunity of speaking to Bill 101.

It was my understanding, from the orders that were printed today, that there was some agreement with the House leaders that we would be reaching Bill 101 early in the evening. Now, as it's evolved, I won't even be able to speak on Bill 101 today. So I feel that my privileges are somewhat infringed upon and I hope that tomorrow the government House leader will bring Bill 101 back as the first item of business so that I may represent the concerns of the people I represent that deal with Bill 101.

The Speaker: To the member for Mississauga South, all of us always hope for a better day, but the member for Halton Centre has the floor and she may resume her remarks.

Mrs Sullivan: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You will recall that I began my remarks by referring to remarks which were made in 1989 by the then Minister of Community and Social Services. Once again, I would like to refer to the same speech he made in this House on December 6, 1989, almost exactly to the day three years ago.

He indicated that a consultative process would be established in four areas to bring forward detailed plans, and those four areas were:

"A new classification system to aid us in making funding decisions for nursing homes and homes for the aged; the design of the new community service access agencies...the guidelines for new community and in-home service and the role of chronic care facilities within the reformed long-term care system."

I previously referred to the fact that as we are looking at the continuum of health care services and social services, which must be involved in a fully integrated approach to long-term care reform—basically what the minister is doing now is simply picking up where the minister left off precisely three years ago. The consistent funding arrangements, the consistent service expectations, the consistent accountability for homes for the aged and for nursing homes and for charitable homes for the aged is something that has been on the table for well over two years. Indeed, this bill could have come forward a long time ago.

2340

There is an element, though, that I'd like to spend some time in bringing to the table, and that is the entire question of the transition period as we move into long-term care reform. In that transition period, we do not believe there should be any patient service gaps, and I think the Minister of Health concurs with that view. Unfortunately, the decisions, particularly recently, that the Minister of Health has brought to the floor of this place and that have been announced in other locations will create and add to patient service gaps.

Now, before we even looked at a long-term care reform proposal on any basis, we knew that there were gaps, and I suppose that if I look around this place, the member for Halton North would be able to identify the deficiencies in long-term care facilities in our own region. The member for Oxford would be able to identify in his region where

there are deficiencies in in-home care. The honourable the Minister of Labour would be able to identify in his city where there are service deficiencies and where people are unable to achieve equity and access to a long-term care service and continuum.

That problem has been exacerbated by the recent announcements which have come from the Minister of Health in her approach to hospital funding. Our view is that you cannot view the role of hospitals in isolation from the entire question of long-term care reform, that issues which the minister put on the table today and which I believe are not addressed at all in Bill 101—I understand why they're not addressed, but that gap is clearly there on issues such as palliative care.

The discussion the minister put on the table with respect to palliative care spoke only to one aspect of the palliative care issue, and that is to the question of the delivery of palliative care in a home situation where people who want to die in their own home with their family around them are able to do so in comfort, with the support of people who have received appropriate counselling and with the support of their family, who have also received appropriate counselling.

The palliative care announcement the minister made today made no mention at all of the increased need, given demographic change, given increased chronicity of our aging population, for an incremental service and availability of palliative care services in our institutional sector, and indeed for increased training and incremental training in palliative care for care givers themselves.

As people are moving out of acute care delivery, we hope the minister will put her attention into training of personnel who are leaving that hospital system and moving into a community base, into the palliative care area. But the minister cannot ignore the needs for palliative care service delivery in an institutional or facility setting, whether that's the nursing home, the home for the aged or another setting.

Let me tell you that we know, and I think that it's clear from the demographic evidence, that there are many people who are in facilities, whether they're chronic care facilities or other facilities, who have no families, who have no homes. They have themselves. I know that the Minister of Labour, by example, has visited St Peter's Centre in Hamilton and is fully cognizant of the excellent work that's done there. He has probably walked the rehabilitation walk at that particular facility.

A large number of the patients there are people who have no other place to be and no family or friends to be with. They are in a chronic care situation and have no other place to be as they approach death. The death they approach is a lonely one. I know the Minister of Labour understands that as they approach that death they will want to do that with the therapeutic supports to the maximum capability our society is able to offer, with the maximum personal supports our society is able to offer.

I am concerned when the Minister of Health today, in reference to palliative care enhancements, provided enhancements only in the in-home situation. The situation in the facility is one that deserves the real attention, concern and

consideration of the Minister of Health as we move into a continuum of care for people whether or not they have other supports.

The downsizing of hospitals which we have seen over the past year and a half, perhaps two years, and indeed perhaps before that, reflects absolutely directly on how we are developing our long-term care reform programs. Where possible, we are moving people out of an institutional setting.

I believe, and I think the Minister of Health concurs, that our acute care hospitals have responded in a very positive way, and sometimes with enormous difficulty, in cutting the services offered within their own communities and changing the expectations of the population around them. In doing that, the hospitals have had not only to cut beds; they've had to lay off staff. In many cases, the ethical problem that is faced by the practitioners themselves is one that I feel merits attention; that is, what is the place of the practitioner in a situation where he knows that in his or her community there is no place else for the patient to go?

In this pile I will refer to this document latterly. I have a report from the placement commissioner and another report from the Minister of Health herself issued at the beginning of this fiscal year—actually in January—that indicates that my community, Halton, is the lowest in Ontario in terms of availability of any long-term care facility. We are already the lowest in the entire province in terms of availability of long-term care facilities, and we are a growing area.

I point out to you that the long-term care facilities that are included on this list include chronic care facilities, extended care facilities, and residential care facilities. They include a relationship that is a demographic ratio with the over-75 population and a ratio that's expressed in the long-term care beds per thousand population over the age of 75. When I look at the second-lowest geographic region on the list, I see Peel. Halton and Peel are two areas in Ontario which are the fastest-growing demographic areas in the province. If we are going to address in those communities the downsizing of hospitals, the ethical questions that practitioners have to face about where people will go—and understand that in our communities there is no place, there is no other opportunity for people who are being moved out of an acute care facility; even if the beds are being used inappropriately for chronic care purposes, there is no other place to move them—the practitioner will have no other alternative than to say, "I cannot discharge that patient into a vacuum."

2350

We can look at this list. Metro Toronto is about seventh from the bottom of the list. The availability of long-term care places for a diverse community in Metro Toronto is seventh from the bottom of the list. The ratios are singularly low in comparison, by example, to the number one geographic area on the list, which is Sudbury. On a long-term care ratio basis, the long-term care beds per thousand population over 75, Sudbury is able to offer 484.9 beds per thousand population. On the other hand, Halton is able to offer 111 beds per thousand of population over 75 and

Metro Toronto is able to offer 127 beds per thousand of population.

In my community there is no place for people to go if they require a long-term care facility. Believe me, while we haven't had what is known to be an official patient classification system, our practitioners have been in fact implementing a patient classification system on an ongoing basis over a period of time. That Sudbury has available to people five times the long-term care facilities available in my own community gives me an enormous cause for concern and for pause. I'm not saying that people in Sudbury shouldn't have access to those facilities—indeed, they should—but there is an extraordinary ill balance in terms of what we as a society are making available to people simply because of the geography of our communities.

If we are in fact going to have a continuum of care that includes a balance between in-home services and facility-based services, we had better be very sure, as legislators and as government, that those facilities are available on an equitable and equal basis to all persons, wherever they live and whether or not they have families to take care of them. I hope I will hear a response from the Minister of Health on this. I think this is an enormous problem.

As we are talking about a restructuring of the entire health care delivery, the Minister of Health must pay attention to whether the delivery systems that we are able to put in place on an equitable and timely basis, and based on the minister's own time lines, can in fact be done and whether services that are available to people in the riding of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines are as equally available to people in her community as they are in my community.

I think that minister, the Minister of Citizenship and the Minister of Labour, whose community is also well down on the list in terms of availability of facilities for long-term care for people who cannot be cared for in their homes or through community-based agencies which deliver home care with a person who moves to an agency for rehabilitation or whatever—we have to put our minds to how we are going to deal with what is already an established inequity and how that inequity is going to be corrected.

Once again, we have not seen, as our hospital structures are being downsized, an incremental enhancement in community-based care. For the long-term care patient, that is the key. I believe that in the consumer report which was prepared by the Senior Citizens' Consumer Alliance For Long-Term Care Reform over the past summer and which was a very interesting document and one that I think we've all paid attention to—they put an enormous amount of work into it. But one of the singular and most important recommendations that the Seniors' Alliance made was that—in fact, I believe they called it emergency funding that should be made available to the community-based services that must only accompany and in fact must be there as an integral part, as a base part, of long-term care reform. They called for emergency funding—yes, I found the chapter.

"Urgent Issues" it's called, chapter 2, subheading 1: "Provide emergency funding for community-based services. We believe," they say, "that the most urgent priority

facing the ministers responsible for long-term care is to bring some stability to the existing system of community-based services."

We saw on the steps of the Legislature—the Speaker and I know a different song about "on the steps," having come from the same university—but we know that, within the past week, on the steps of this place there was a gathering of some several thousands of people who were deeply concerned about the delivery of community-based services and the enhancement of community-based services, which will in fact be the linchpin of long-term care reform.

There's no question in my mind that when our government began the discussion of long-term care reform, as individuals who were bringing issues to our caucus from the community, many of us spoke with some passion about the need for almost a hit, an incremental adjustment fund, to ensure that as we moved out of the facility, the institutional-base, there was an appropriate enhancement of services available at the community base. The argument was put that there cannot be any gap as one moves from a system that has been in place since the early 1960s, and indeed before that, to a vision of long-term care, particularly given an aging population, that is a vision for the 1990s.

One of the things that I have probably been disappointed in in the approach that my government took and the approach that this government is taking is that there has been no real acknowledgement that there will probably have to be a one-time hit of funding to ensure that the infrastructure is in place, that the service agencies are able to produce what has been promised to the people who rely on it and in fact whose expectations are that a new system will be in place.

I see behind your throne, Mr Speaker, a number of people from the ministries who are probably wrestling with this very question. I think that if that question is not addressed, it's a fallacy that we will have a smooth transition to long-term care services.

Mr Speaker, we're about three minutes from midnight. I think that at that juncture in the debate, I will move adjournment of the debate.

The Speaker: Actually, with the indulgence of the House, it being almost 12 of the clock, this House can stand adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 2400.

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